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## NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

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## *Affairs of Wool And Sheep*

### The Range Feed Supply:

Early July rains have improved feed conditions in some sections of the intermountain country in which the situation was becoming serious. The Southwest and eastern range areas have been well supplied with moisture.

The problem of feed supply, however, is always a pressing one with the stock raiser. The greater growth of the good years must be utilized as far as possible, but at the same time flocks cannot safely be enlarged beyond the carrying capacity of the same range in the less favorable years that are sure to come.

The feed on the range is the wool grower's raw material from which his manufacturing units—the ewes—produce wool and meat. To obtain a cheaper and better supply of this raw material is a continuing and pressing problem. It was long since determined that any increase in the range feed supply of western states must come as a result of management. No new areas remain to be opened up and on much of the older lands, mismanagement has caused a reduction in annual production.

### Range Improvement:

Range improvement is a practical problem which must be attacked in a business way. No theoretical scheme that calls for complete suspension of grazing and ignores the necessity of maintaining flocks and herds during improvement can be considered. In some cases a lower rate of stocking may be more profitable through the production of larger and better fattened animals, but, in general, it is true that our western ranges can, by good management, be made to better feed the present numbers of sheep and cattle and maintain an increased population of these animals.

Numerous cases can be cited in which individuals and companies having full control of the range they use have greatly

improved their feed supply under regular operations. An increase in feed grown on any area means a reduction in the cost of feed per animal.

Government range management up to this time apparently has been mainly calculated to effect improvement through reduction in numbers of live stock grazed and appears to have given too little consideration to stockmen's necessity for carrying their animals on the acres already available. Shortening the grazing season or reducing the number of animals on forest lands may ensure improvement in the summer range, but it complicates and hinders the plan of maintaining the stock and improving the range used in the other three seasons.

### Acres per Ewe:

A business way of figuring on the matter calls for working on a basis of the number of acres needed to carry a ewe for twelve months. Only on such a basis can the real values of different classes of land be known, or can the loss or improvement in the carrying capacity of the ranges be measured. The grazing studies reported in this issue as being conducted at the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station show the acreage requirements per ewe under different methods of use in eastern Idaho. It appears that one acre per ewe per month is the average requirement in that region. All of the range at the station has been used in each year. The dates of grazing and rate of stocking have been varied, but only as profitably may be done in a regular commercial way. On some parts of the station lands one acre will now feed a ewe for more than one month. The article on "Improvement of Range Under Use" in this issue should interest every range man. If necessary, criticisms should be offered to have the studies conducted in a way to answer the questions of everyday practical use and improvement of range lands.

### THE WOOL TARIFF OF 1926

Inquiries have been coming to the Wool Grower in regard to the effectiveness in 1926 of the 31-cent clean content duty on imported wools.

Reference has been made in these inquiries to the statement by one of our correspondents, as printed in the June Wool Grower, in which it was suggested that the prices current in the West were on a free trade basis.

There should be no misunderstanding as to the actual value to the wool grower of the present protective tariff on imported wools. The grower's troubles with wool prices this year have been due to his own inability, or lack of organization, to secure the price benefit furnished by the protective tariff.

Elsewhere in this issue it is shown that during the first five months of the present year, the average difference between Boston prices and London prices was 21 cents per clean pound. It cannot be expected that this difference will always amount to the full 31 cents, because of the fact that a very large part of the imported wool is specially selected for high quality and also has been skirted and otherwise prepared in a way to make its clean content value to the manufacturer higher than that of the ordinary run of our home grown wools. This extra value is variously estimated, but may be considered as amounting to around eight cents per scoured pound. The import duty (31 cents) plus a three-cent allowance for expense of shipping from London to Boston establishes a differential of 34 cents. Deducting from this figure the eight cents for difference in quality would show that in the usual range of prices, the difference in London and Boston quotations should be around 26 cents. The fact that it has been around 21 cents most of this year shows that there has been no serious falling off in the effectiveness of the tariff in protecting Boston wool prices.

The dissatisfaction among growers over this year's prices does not arise from Boston conditions, but from conditions in the range territory where the market has been made by the growers themselves. The prices generally paid in the West this

season have been materially lower than the Boston quotations, which, as above stated, have reflected almost altogether the amount of the protective tariff. Corroboration of this statement is found in the report of the April wool market made by the Wool Grower's Boston correspondent and printed in the May issue. In that article it was made to appear that the prices being paid in the West were in accordance with the cost of importing similar wools from foreign countries. To obtain such a comparison, however, there was included an allowance of 15 cents per pound difference in quality (instead of eight cents), and an allowance of seven cents per grease pound for the dealer in addition to the freight from the western points and Boston. It is by their willingness to accept these unreasonably low prices that some growers have mistakenly come to suppose that they have not obtained the full benefit of the tariff. As a matter of fact, the trouble has rested entirely in the marketing system. The tariff has and will be a great benefit in any reasonable or orderly plan of getting our wools from the range to the consuming points.

There is another matter of immediate interest to wool growers in connection with the wool tariff. This is the elections to be held this fall. There appears to be a disposition to consider that the policy of protecting American industries is not an issue in the coming elections, but such is not the case.

Even in the highly improbable event that the administration should fail to retain its supposed majority in the Senate and in the House of Representatives, it would be impossible for the tariffs to be changed by act of Congress before the early part of 1928. President Coolidge's stand on the policy of protection is well known and there is no possibility that opponents of protection could muster the two-thirds vote which would be necessary to effect any change in our tariff law before 1929.

It should be remembered, however, that United States Senators elected in 1926 will be voting on all matters before the Congress until 1932. It is not improbable or impossible that before that time the

matter of the policy of protection of American industries, including that of wool growing, will be up for consideration. It is good citizenship and good democracy for voters to inform themselves as to the position of candidates for nomination and election, upon the policy of protecting American industries. Whether or not the tariff is prominently discussed in the nominating primaries or in the election campaigns, the fact remains that it is still a national issue and those interested in it should not fail to use every effort to have the voters understand the question in determining their choice of representatives in the national law-making body.

### WATERING PLACES ON PUBLIC LANDS WITHDRAWN FROM ENTRY

An order to prevent filing upon public lands having springs or water holes of sufficient supply for public use was issued by the U. S. General Land office, under date of April 17, 1925, to the registers of United States Land Offices.

The order itself and the contents of an explanatory circular issued at the same times reads as follows:

By Executive order of April 17, 1926, the following order of withdrawal was issued:

Under and pursuant to the provisions of the act of Congress approved June 25, 1910 (36 Stat., 847), entitled "An act to authorize the President of the United States to make withdrawals of public lands in certain cases," as amended by act of Congress approved August 24, 1912 (37 Stat., 497), it is hereby ordered that every smallest legal subdivision of the public land surveys which is vacant unappropriated unreserved public land and contains a spring or water hole, and all land within one quarter of a mile of every spring or water hole located on unsurveyed public land be, and the same is hereby, withdrawn from settlement, location, sale, or entry, and reserved for public use in accordance with the provisions of section 10 of the act of December 29, 1916 (39 Stat., 862), and in aid of pending legislation.

The above order was designed to preserve for general public use and benefit unreserved public lands containing water holes or other bodies of water needed or used by the public for watering purposes. It is not therefore to be construed as applying to or reserving from homestead or other entry lands having small springs or water holes affording only enough water for the use of one family and its domestic

animals. It withdraws those springs and water holes capable of providing enough water for general use for watering purposes.

In furtherance of said order, all General Land Office circulars and regulations pertaining to the selection, filing, or entry of public lands under any of the public land laws of the United States, are hereby amended so that in every instance it must be shown by a duly corroborated affidavit in connection with every selection, filing, or entry made upon or subsequent to the date of said Executive order, or theretofore filed but not allowed, that no spring or water hole exists, if it be a fact, upon any legal subdivision of the land sought to be appropriated, if surveyed, and if unsurveyed, within one quarter of a mile from the exterior boundaries of said land. If there be any spring or water hole the affidavit should state the exact location and size thereof; together with an estimate of the quantity of water in gallons, which it is capable of producing daily, and any other information necessary to determine whether or not it is valuable or necessary as a public water reserve.

In case the attempted appropriation of the land is one the allowance of which is within the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior or the Commissioner of the General Land Office, the showing hereinbefore referred to must be furnished, irrespective of the date of filing of the application, entry, or selection, before favorable action is taken thereon.

This circular shall not apply, however, to selections or filings made in pursuance of grants which have been determined to be "Grants in praesenti," and to have attached and become effective prior to April 17, 1926, or to valid settlement claims initiated prior to said date and thereafter maintained in accordance with the law applicable thereto.

You will make proper notations on your records of this withdrawal in order that it may be considered in connection with any applications filed.

William Spry,  
Commissioner.

E. C. Finney,  
First Assistant Secretary.

### MARKING GRADES OF MEAT

The question of the grading and marking of meats handled in interstate commerce has been the subject of inquiry during the past year by a special committee appointed by the National Live Stock and Meat Board. A representative of the committee made a thorough canvass of the question early this year. The expression of opinion received from producers was largely in favor of a plan, voluntary or compulsory, of grading all meats offered in commerce and of marking carcasses as to grade in such a way that the consumers could readily recognize the quality of the cuts offered in a retail shop by such marks.

This question has been of peculiar interest to corn belt cattle finishers during the last few months. Wide complaint has arisen as to the low prices paid for cattle of the best breeding and highest finish. The difficulty was attributed by those especially interested in the above problem to be largely due to the fact that consumers, anxious to obtain the best quality of beef and willing to pay the necessary price, have been deceived by the butchers who have given them inferior beef at a fancy price. It was thought by some of those studying the beef question that it might be possible to have the better grades of beef marked in the packing house in a way that would enable the consumer to recognize the top grades as offered in the retail shop.

Mr. Alvin H. Sanders, editor of the Breeder's Gazette, has been active in the agitation in this matter and in educational undertakings. The secretaries of the beef cattle registry associations and a few prominent breeders and producers of beef cattle recently met with Mr. Sanders and arranged for the holding of a general delegate convention at Kansas City, July 22-23. At this time it is expected to make plans and arrangements for a permanent organization to promote the use of better beef. In the meantime representatives of those interested conferred with the Secretary of Agriculture and obtained from him an offer of assistance. Under the provisions of the law providing for the establishment of

### SHEEPMEN'S CALENDAR

Arizona Wool Growers' Convention:  
Flagstaff, July 13-14.  
Wyoming Wool Growers' Convention:  
Thermopolis, July 15-17.  
Texas Wool Growers' Convention:  
Del Rio, July 27-29.  
Texas Sheep and Goat Sale: Del  
Rio, July 27-29.  
Idaho Ram Sale: Filer, August 18.  
National Ram Sale: Salt Lake City,  
Utah, August 30, 31-September 1.  
Montana Ram Sale: Helena, Sep-  
tember 8-9.

standard grades on perishable products, the Secretary of Agriculture has issued a regulation in which official grades of beef are described and established. The employment of these grades by packers and retailers is not made compulsory. It is the general opinion that before such could be done, additional legislation would be needed and it has not yet been decided whether it is desirable or advisable that grading and marking should be made compulsory.

The Secretary of Agriculture has offered to furnish a limited number of graders to select and mark carcasses of beef when such service is requested by railroad companies, hotels, or individual retailers. It is also possible for packers or wholesalers to have their supplies marked in advance of sale, though a general employment of this plan is not likely to prevail until the demand for officially marked meats has been established. It should be understood that the grading and marking service obtainable from the Department of Agriculture at present applies only to the two highest grades of beef, known as U. S. prime and U. S. choice. It was considered that voluntary employment of this plan should be continued for some time before reaching a decision as to the advantage or desirability of marking the less valuable grades of beef.

It will remain for the representatives of the producers of high quality beef to bring the service offered by the Department of Agriculture into use. If the proper administrative and educational measures are taken to prevent misunder-



standing and opposition and at the same time to enable those demanding good beef to obtain it, much good should result and the methods finally worked out and adopted should then be employed for other classes of meat.

### NO FARM LEGISLATION

Congress has again adjourned without passing any of the so-called farm relief bills. The fact that this is a wise move is evidenced by the wide range of the bills presented. No one knows what form of legislation would benefit the farmer, hence the proposed measures have ranged all the way from direct appropriation for the relief of distressed farmers to measures proposing to fix the price of his products. Any of these measures would have hurt the very man it was proposed to help.

The farmer's whole trouble is one of over production and his situation cannot be helped by passing any law which will further increase production and that is just what these so-called relief bills would have done. It is relief laws which have caused all the farmers' troubles—laws which made more farmers. Sooner or later the farmers must recognize that the world can produce a hundred times more than it can consume; that Siberia alone if properly farmed, could feed Europe and America, that even in densely settled countries vast areas remain untouched by development. The world has grown potbellied trying to eat our surplus farm products. The farmer should remember that as civilization increases, hours of work will be lessened, the vigor of action will be decreased so that the demand for food and clothing will be materially decreased. We are eating one bushel of wheat less per capita than 20 years ago. The world is today using just the same amount of wool that it did in 1830 and judging by the price there is still a surplus.

I was amused last winter reading press reports from Washington. On one particular day a group of farmers, or those presuming to represent the farmers, were before the Committee on Irrigation urg-

ing Congress to appropriate money to start work on the Horse Heaven irrigation project to put water on 1,750,000 acres of new land. Less than a hundred feet away before the Agricultural Committee, another group of farmers was urging Congress to appropriate \$250,000,000 to take care of the present farm surplus. Both delegations were heard most respectfully without anyone seeming to see the joke. At least no one is reported to have smiled.

If Congress wants to help the farmer let it buy up the cut over land of the Middle West for reforestation. Repeal the homestead laws. Take back all the land which homesteaders are willing to surrender by repayment of all fees. Stop the extension of national irrigation. Stop the propaganda that is daily going for more agricultural development. I believe we are spending a billion dollars a year in propaganda to increase farm production. The government, the states, the cities, the commercial clubs, the railroads, the banks, the farm papers are all engaged in it. Not a dollar is being spent to make more consumers, more doctors, more lawyers, more banks, more storekeepers, more carpenters, more railroad labor. Hence the latter class is prosperous and farming is overdone.

I wonder what a storekeeper would think if the government would loan to another man sufficient money to open a store next door to him. That's what it does for the farmer. What would the carpenter think if the government maintained a school to turn out new carpenters, give them a set of tools, and start them up in a town that already had too many carpenters? That's what it does for the farmer.

Not long since I met a hard-headed farmer friend of mine. I said "Well, Bill, Congress has adjourned again without passing the farm relief bill." He replied, "I'm glad of it. I haven't much to be relieved of anyhow."

I think most of us farmers feel that way about it.

S. W. McClure.

### OREGON AT OUTDOOR LIFE CONFERENCE

The Oregon Wool Growers Association was represented by its secretary, Mr. Hugh Sproat, at the second annual conference on outdoor life at Spokane, Washington, on June 23rd and 24th. Mr. Sproat discussed predatory animals, particularly their destructive effects on game and domestic stock, and asked for better support from the game wardens in combatting them.

A complaint was made at the meeting that sheep grazing was causing a diminution of pasturage for game, especially deer and elk, but this was shown to be not very well founded as it was pointed out, on account of the fact that elk and deer are able to find feed higher from the ground than sheep and have access to greater area than sheep, there is little competition between the two classes of animals. It was further shown that the work of the sheepmen and Biological Survey in fighting coyotes had greatly increased the number of deer during the past few years.

The discussion resulted in the passage of resolutions by the conference "commending work between stockmen's and sportmen's associations, state game departments, the Forest Service and the Biological Survey in predatory animal control; and commending the Biological Survey and its methods of predatory animal destruction."

### INSPECTION TOUR OF NEVADA RANGE

Headed by Governor J. G. Scrugham, forty state officials, prominent stockmen and representatives of the U. S. Department of Agriculture made a three-day inspection of the range in the northern part of Elko County, Nevada, the early part of July. The trip, which had for its object the obtaining of first-hand information on range and stock conditions, was filmed by the Department of Agriculture. Among the members of the party were C. L. Forsling of the Great Basin Experiment Station at Ephraim, Utah; Asst. District Forester Winkler of Ogden, Utah; G. A. Scott, livestock statistician of Salt Lake; C. B. Fleming, plant specialist at Reno.



## Around the Range Country

The notes on weather conditions appearing under the names of the various states are furnished by J. Cecil Alter of the U. S. Weather Bureau, and based upon reports and publications of that bureau.

The letters are from interested readers. The Wool Grower welcomes and desires such communications from any part of the country and also invites comments and opinions upon questions relating to the sheep industry and statements of occurrences of importance and significance to wool growers.

### WYOMING

Rains and warm weather have favored live stock and ranges over much of the state, though haying progressed without important losses or delays. However, in some northern counties, and in the far western and southwestern counties there has been no rain of importance for nearly two months, and ranges are deteriorating rapidly. Live stock, however, are still good, and many may be shipped early. Streams are unusually low west of the continental divide.

#### Buffalo

It seems that the feeders like the quality of our lambs and their weight, 62 to 64 pounds, so they came in March this year and we let them have them at 11¼ cents. Wool buyers came in May and we let them have our wool for 34 cents. The wool of this county has a rather light shrink.

It has been rather cold up to the present, June 23, but the summer range is in good condition.

J. Esponda

#### Saratoga

Dry and cool, some frost and a few hot days describes the weather during June. The summer range is fine, the best in years in fact.

There was some wool sold in May for 33 cents, but there have been no other transactions in wool, ewes, or lambs since then.

Chet L. Cluff

### IDAHO

Northern Idaho generally has had copious rains and the pastures and ranges, and crops generally, are reported thrifty and in good condition to reach maturity or the autumn season satisfactorily. But there has been less rain in southern counties and with unseasonably warm weather in the last week, ranges and pastures, and many field crops have begun to suffer for rain or other moisture. Live stock are excellent in the panhandle section and fairly good over southern counties. Haying has progressed satisfactorily.

#### Chester

We have had dry, windy weather during June and some frost, but very little rain. While I have not been on the range lately, I should think that the feed would be fair on account of the abundant moisture last fall.

No contracting of lambs has been reported during the last few weeks. Some wool has been sold, however, at 31 and 32½ cents.

Ernest G. Bates

#### Weiser

It has been dry and warm during June; feed conditions have been good, however. The lamb crop is larger than the 1925 yield.

J. E. Ballard

#### Nounan

Feed on the range is quite plentiful, but it is getting too dry, as we have had no rain so far this month (June 12). Ewes of mixed ages with lambs have sold recently at \$14 a head. During the past two weeks there have been some transactions in wool at 31½ cents, but I do not know what the shrinkage was. The lamb crop was larger this year and more lambs are being raised than last season.

Ray Densley

### MONTANA

The weather has been fine for haying, and fairly good for live stock and ranges, though more rain would help generally. Pasturage is good to excellent in eastern counties. Sheep shearing has progressed

favorably and is nearly completed. Heavy rains fell in the third week over northern counties, and water supplies are holding up well in that section. Crops are mostly good, though spotted.

### OREGON

Rain has not been sufficient as a rule and water supplies and soil moisture are becoming short. The first hay crop has been cut in the higher counties, and the second crop has been harvested in southern counties. The range is drying but continues to furnish ample feed, and live stock are good as a rule. Some domestic live stock are being fed because of pasture shortage, and many lambs have been marketed. Most live stock are on the higher ranges.

#### Spray

June weather has been fine, but feed on the summer range is dry at the present (June 24). I have not heard of any lamb contracting recently or any activity in ewes. Some wool has been sold during the month at from 28 to 31 cents a pound. There is a surplus of old ewes here.

R. J. Carsner

### WASHINGTON

Heavy rains during the third week occurred generally over eastern counties, breaking the long drought effectually. Warm weather during the closing week gave forage and grasses a good growth, though it was too warm for best growth in places. The rainy weather damaged some hay, but added greatly to the value of most crops. Live stock as a rule are doing well.

### CALIFORNIA

This is the dry season, and no rain has fallen; temperatures have mostly been near or above normal. Excellent haying and crop harvesting weather has prevailed, the second and in places the third alfalfa crop being taken. Pastures are mostly dry, but cured feed continues plentiful. Live stock are generally good, and many shipments have been made to market.

**NEVADA**

Temperatures have been normal, especially in the last ten days; and the state has been some weeks without a good rain. Pasture and ranges are very dry, and water holes are failing rapidly. However, live stock are in fair to good condition. The hot, dry weather has shortened the wild hay crop, but was favorable for the harvesting of alfalfa. Irrigation water is scarce and streams are low, the farm crop outlook being somewhat impaired.

**Austin**

Range conditions have been fair but it is getting very dry now. Our lamb crop was better than 100 per cent. Wool estimated to shrink 64 per cent has sold at 30 cents a pound.

Alex Maguira

**Aurum**

It has been very dry here all during June and the feed on the range is about forty per cent normal. No lambs have been sold here yet, July 1, but an offer of 9½ cents has been made. We are holding for a better price, however. A few ewes have changed hands recently at \$11.00.

Some wool shrinking around 58 per cent was sold in June at 28 to 32 cents. I have shipped my wool to the Pacific Co-operative Wool Growers at San Francisco. In case some sheepmen have not yet sold and need money on wool to operate their business, it might pay them to write and find out what this concern can do with it rather than to sell it at half price.

Steven Doutre.

**Eureka**

It has been exceptionally dry here for the past two weeks; feed on the range is only in fair condition. Thirty-one cents was paid during the past month for one lot of wool shrinking 62 per cent. No lambs have been contracted for fall delivery yet.

Walter Handley.

**Tonkins**

June was dry and windy and the range is getting dry, but so far we have had good feed. No recent sales of wool or contracting for lambs have been reported around here.

W. O. Ferguson.

**NEW MEXICO**

The weather has been rather warm and comparatively dry. Live stock and ranges are mostly good, though rain is much needed in central and southern counties where ranges are browning. The first haying has been completed in northern counties, and the second has begun in southern fields, under fine weather conditions.

**Corona**

We have had the finest weather I have even seen for June in this country. Summer range is good. Lambs for fall delivery have been contracted at 10½ cents and some wool shrinking around 70 per cent has been sold at 27 cents recently. Shorn yearling ewes have been purchased lately at \$10.00 a head and older ewes at \$6.00.

M. D. Altman.

**Cedarvale**

There was an unusual amount of rain the first half of June, but the latter part has been dry and warm with winds. At present a rain is needed very much for the feed on the summer range.

Twenty to twenty-five cents has been paid for wools during this month, no shrinkage given.

R. H. Harper

**WESTERN TEXAS**

Moderately warm weather with occasional showers has been favorable for live stock and the ranges. The condition of live stock and ranges is mostly good to excellent, water supplies are ample, and grasses are growing in most sections.

**ARIZONA**

Warm, dry weather has prevailed, the last week being exceptionally warm, and the month being almost rainless. Foot-hill and valley pastures are drying considerably, but generally cured feed continues plentiful. Consequently live stock have continued in good condition, especially the young stuff, many of which are being marketed direct from the range. The excellent forage on the dry ranges results from the generous rains of April; and

watering places continue to supply the demand on them.

**UTAH**

The weather has been very dry and unusually warm. As a consequence the lower ranges are badly in need of rain, though there is still a great deal of feed on them. The upper ranges, and live stock in general, are still in good condition, though water is getting low. The alfalfa crop was not heavy, due to weevils, but was harvested in good condition. The second crop is making a good start and is being harvested in the extreme southwestern part of state. Farm crops generally are suffering from rain.

**COLORADO**

Seasonal temperatures prevailed until the closing week when it grew much warmer; and droughty weather was the rule through the month over most of the state. While rain is needed everywhere, irrigation water is still plentiful. Alfalfa harvesting has progressed favorably, and the second crop is reported doing well. Live stock are mostly good and doing well. Farm crops generally are reported good.

**Granby**

Nearly all of June has been moderately cool with some showers, and the range is in excellent condition; the grass in the mountains is the best we have had for several years.

The sheep business is practically a new industry in this (Grand) county. The lamb crop this year is a little below normal and the wool yield is also lighter. In previous years good lambs have been marketed at 80 to 90 pounds and conditions point this season also to good heavy lambs.

From 31½ to 33 cents a pound has been paid recently for wool in this section; it is estimated to shrink around 52 to 56 per cent.

James Ainsley

Select your rams from the year's best at the Eleventh Annual National Ram Sale at Salt Lake City, Utah, August 30, 31 and September 1, 1926.

## IMPROVING RANGE UNDER USE

### A Demonstration of Range Improvement on Controlled Lands---Results Obtained at the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station

Visitors at the eighth annual Field Day on June 1, at the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station, near Dubois, Idaho, in addition to learning of the results to date in range sheep breeding and wool and lamb production studies, had an opportunity to review the progress in the range experiments being conducted on spring-fall range at that place. These experiments in the conservation and best use of spring-fall sheep range are being conducted in cooperation by the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station of the Bureau of Animal Industry and the Great Basin Range Experiment Station of the Forest Service.

It was in recognition of the great importance of spring-fall range to the sheep industry and the need for ascertaining such information as can be gotten on grazing methods to prevent damage to the forage crop and make it contribute the most to sheep raising, that these studies were started. Range of this character, which is used by the flocks in the spring, after leaving the feed lots or winter range until the high mountain summer grazing lands are ready, and again in the fall before the sheep are taken to their wintering places, occupies a key position in the year-round operations in the sheep business. Most of the late spring

lambing is done on this kind of range, and it is used again just before and during the breeding season. Both of these are critical periods in the lamb produc-

tion and if possible gaining slightly if the best results are to be had. Good range feed is necessary during both periods and that in turn depends a great deal upon how carefully the range is used.

Another factor which increases the need for better care and improvement at the present time, is the gradual limiting of the available area of spring-fall range. Dry land farming or attempted dry land farming has been quite active on lands of this type in recent years, more so at least than on the high mountain summer grazing lands or on the desert. As a result the area for use in spring and fall has been greatly restricted by withdrawals for farming. Such areas as have reverted to grazing purposes have had much of the native forage crop destroyed by the plow. This means that better range management to increase the productivity on the remaining areas will have to replace, in so far as possible, the amount

which has been lost through cultivation.

A number of the grazing projects at the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station are made possible and more practicable because of the availability of nine 80-acre sheep tight pastures and several other fenced areas. Each of these enclosures is being grazed in a different way to as-



The Type of Range Land at the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station.



Part of the Rambouillet Ewe Flock used in the Grazing Experiments.

tion. Much of what a lamb will be at marketing time depends upon what kind of feed its mother is getting during the first month or six weeks of the lamb's life. The size of the lamb crop also, depends upon the condition of the ewes at breeding time. They should be in thrifty con-



certain the answer to some specific problem that has arisen with regard to the best way to use spring-fall range. Records are being maintained of the number of sheep and the period they are in each paddock, and of the increase or decrease and change in the vegetation, so that each method of use may be measured in terms of grazing capacity.

#### **The Problems Being Studied**

The strictly grazing problems which are being studied include: (1) The forage value of the different range plants. (2) Methods of grazing that will increase the amount of native forage on run down range; (3) When grazing may begin in the spring without injury to the forage growth; (4) The closeness of use that may be practiced in the spring without injuring the range or detracting from the amount of forage needed during the fall and the closeness of use that may be practiced in the fall without injury; (5) The effect of variations in climate, especially rainfall, from year to year upon the size of the forage crop and what safeguards are necessary in stocking the range successfully to meet these fluctuations; (6) The carrying capacity of spring-fall range. Other projects which are being developed include the comparison of carrying capacity and cost of operating with sheep tight pastures as compared to herding on the open range, and the changes in the vegetation on range which indicate improvement or overgrazing.

Progress on the various projects has not yet reached a point where conclusive results are available although some very worthwhile information has already been attained. Usually not less than five years or more is required to obtain conclusive information in range studies. Change in carrying capacity as the result of a method of grazing is slow. Moreover, climatic conditions vary from year to year and the effect of this factor must be carefully determined before the effect of grazing alone can be judged. However, it is worth while reporting the progress to date in a number of the projects.

#### **The Grazing Value of Native Range Plants**

A good working knowledge of the identity, forage value and other signifi-

cance of the plants which grow on a range is one of the first steps towards its intelligent use as well as study. On first thought, the mere knowing the name, value and growth habits of the various grasses, weeds and bushes on a piece of grazing land may appear to be of little consequence, and only something for the "grass experts" to bother their heads about. But that is hardly the case. The plants are what make up the feed on the range and the grazier must know them by some generally accepted common name, so that he can discuss them with others. Without such knowledge it is difficult to judge grazing capacity, impart or receive information as to what plants are poisonous, or know whether a range is improving or going downhill.

The vegetation which occurs on the Station lands, comprising some 28,000 acres, upon which the studies are being made, is typical of much of the sagebrush-grass areas commonly found between approximately 4500 and 7000 feet elevation in the Intermountain region. The characteristic plant species is sagebrush, including two varieties, the ordinary western sagebrush and another similar, but narrower-leaved species. Bitterbrush, also known as antelopebrush or buckbrush, is another common shrub, together with horsebrush, and some rabbitbrush. Of the shrubs, bitterbrush has the highest forage value, although the sagebrush and rabbitbrush are taken to some extent, especially late in the fall. The most common grass is blue-bunch wheatgrass, a very good forage plant, although it is a poor seeder and slow to re-establish once it has been killed out. Other grasses of lesser importance include Nevada bluegrass, Gussick's bluegrass, mountain June grass, needle grass and rice grass. All of these are valuable range grasses, ranking in about the order named. Another grass which appears to be spreading on the lands is thickheaded wheatgrass or "blue joint." This plant spreads by rootstocks, and is not dependent upon seed, a condition that favors its spread as compared to the bunch grasses. It is a grass that becomes wiry and less palatable to sheep as the season advances, otherwise it would be an exceptionally good range plant.

Two of the most common weeds are blue lupine or horse-bean and balsamroot. Both of these are taken to quite an extent very early in the spring and the flowers of balsamroot are taken when they are fresh. Other weeds that do not occur in abundance, but are very valuable as sheep feed include butterweed, hawksbeard, wild pea, wooly lupine and toad-flax. These other weeds are quite important because of the natural liking of sheep for them, a condition which has probably resulted in their being overgrazed in the past and their being so limited in amount at present. Foothill death camas is the only native plant known to be poisonous to sheep, and although the quantity is small, some unaccounted-for losses of sheep may be due to it. Snakeweed, an almost worthless plant, has come in and partially taken the range on areas that were the most overgrazed in the past. On areas that have been overgrazed for a shorter period, cheatgrass, sometimes called June grass, yellow or Jim Hill mustard and plume weed, all annuals or plants that come from seed each year, have come in quite prominently.

#### **Range Improvement**

What may be accomplished in increasing carrying capacity is shown by the substantial improvement on the Station lands during the five years that they have been under control. Prior to 1920, the range involved was open public domain, used indiscriminately by sheep in the spring and fall and by cattle and horses throughout the spring, summer and fall season. There had been considerable overgrazing and deterioration, although not the amount of overgrazing that is common on much of the open, public domain. Approximately 16,000 acres of the range was fenced late in 1920 and outside stock excluded. Since 1920 what amounts to about 3100 sheep have been grazed within the fence under herd each spring and fall for a combined season of 120 days. Grazing generally has not started so early in the spring as formerly and camps and temporary watering places to which water was hauled have been moved frequently to avoid overgrazing of local areas. A careful survey of the lands un-

der control, as well as adjoining open lands, was made in June of 1925. This survey took into account the amount of the ground covered by vegetation and the grazing value of that vegetation. Sections inside the controlled area were compared with adjoining sections upon which watering facilities and other conditions were similar, and it was found that the inside sections had an average carrying capacity of 160 sheep per section for a 120-day period, and the outside range a capacity of only 135 sheep for the same period. In other words, the inside range was 18.5 per cent better than the outside range as the result of controlling the number of stock and a more appropriate grazing season.

One of the 80-acre paddocks was considerably overgrazed in 1922. Since that time, it has not been grazed in the spring, so that the vegetation has had an opportunity to mature its seed each summer for three years, although utilization has been full each fall. The effects of this management are quite noticeable in the appearance of the vegetation at the present time. The better weeds, such as butterweed and hawksbeard, have increased appreciably. The grasses have regained their original vigor, so that the height growth and volume of production is greater, the bunches or tufts have increased in size and new plants are coming in from seed. The results here indicate that the deferred and rotation system of grazing may be applied to spring-fall range with advantage so that a portion of a range unit may be given the opportunity to reseed each year.

#### Beginning of the Grazing Season

The time when grazing may begin in the spring is one of the most perplexing problems of range use. The sheep grower naturally wishes to remove his sheep from the feed lot as soon as the snow leaves the range, in order to cut down the feed bill. On the other hand it has been definitely established that grazing before the range forage has gotten a good start is one of the greatest causes of injury, and usually the range should not be grazed for several weeks after the beginning of plant growth.

A test at the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station indicates that too early grazing year after year is equally injurious to spring-fall range.

One of the 80-acre paddocks has been grazed quite fully each year for four seasons from the time that growth began in the spring until the sheep were removed to the summer range in June. The effects of this use as compared to range where grazing was not begun until the vegetation was well along is quite striking. On the later used range there has been no noticeable injury to the vegetation. The early used area already shows a decline in forage production of approximately 15 per cent. The vegetation was found to start growth several days later in the spring than on later grazed areas and appears much weaker in vigor. The more palatable plants are decreasing and the only ones which are holding their own or increasing are such unpalatable plants as snakeweed. The spring range study is being directed to determine whether or not it will be possible to allow early use one year providing grazing is delayed until growth is well along the next; or if early use for only a few weeks early in the spring may be permitted, providing grazing is discontinued the remainder of the growing season. Either of these methods if satisfactory could be applied through a rotation system, to permit early use of a portion of the range each year.

#### The Balance Between Spring and Fall Utilization

The study of the degree of utilization that may be practiced to advantage during the spring and fall seasons indicates that it may not be the safest plan to graze too closely during the spring period. This is especially true in dry years such as 1924. Most of the growth takes place in the spring prior to the first of July. In 1924 there was not enough rain to promote much growth after June 15. Areas that were grazed closely by that date did not produce much forage the rest of the summer and hence had a low carrying capacity in the fall. If all of a range unit was grazed closely in the spring under such conditions there would be but little

feed left for use during the breeding season in the fall. The best practice would probably be not to graze very closely in the spring so that there will be an ample supply for use later on.

#### The Climatic Factor

One of the greatest uncertainties with which the sheepman has to deal in his business is climate. Some years are extra dry, others extra wet and others in between. Of course, it is generally known that in dry years there is ordinarily a shortage of feed and in the wet years there is an abundance. Less is known, however, with regard to the shortage that may be expected in a dry year and how many dry years will have to be contended with in a period of say ten years, and what precautions are necessary to meet such emergencies successfully without a decrease in lamb crop or loss in market value because of poor gains. This problem is being studied at the Sheep Experiment Station. The year 1924 was extra dry with a rainfall of only 8.04 inches at the Station and only 1.10 inches between April 1 and September 1. On the other hand 1925 was extra wet with a rainfall for the year of 16.52 inches of which 8.47 inches fell between April 1 and September 1. An area of range which carried at the rate of 1600 head for a 120-day season in 1925 was able to carry only about half as many in 1924. The average year is probably about half way between the two, which indicates that there may be a variation in carrying capacity of from about 30 per cent below the average in a dry year to 30 per cent above in the wet year. It is reasonable to believe that it would be a much better practice to stock a range conservatively on the basis of the average year so that there would be some margin to fall back on in the dry year. Such stocking would serve also as insurance against any injury from overgrazing. If the extra forage in the wet year was not eaten, it should not be considered as a loss for the extra growth and relatively lighter use of the range would go to keep up and improve the carrying capacity.

Although the results obtained to date are not conclusive and they can not be given in the form of statistics and graphs

for those who desire to have them in that form, they are instructive and offer the range man something to think about in improving the condition on his range and bettering his business. They point to the fact that there is room for improving the carrying capacity, that careful management is worth while to meet the early use problem and that there is real problem in meeting the drought year. The recognition of these things alone, should help the sheepman to help himself.

The Eleventh Annual National Ram Sale will be held at Salt Lake City, Utah, August 30, 31, September 1, 1926. The year's top rams will be there. The catalog giving the breeding, age, and general description of the entries will be ready for distribution the latter part of July. It will be furnished upon request.

#### TAX REDUCTIONS SECURED BY ARIZONA ASSOCIATION

The results of endeavors of wool growers' organizations are often very intangible affairs; it is difficult to estimate the monetary value of the services rendered, especially those of an educational nature. Occasionally, however, the value of accomplishments can be put into concrete form. This is true of the work done to secure reductions in tax assessments on sheep that has been undertaken by a number of the state organizations. The following table which recently appeared in the bulletin of the Arizona Wool Growers Association, gives in a very definite and complete form what its work along this line has meant to the raisers of sheep and goats in that state. The lower assessments, which were secured in 1925, are to be maintained during 1926 also.

County	Assessors Valuation	Tax Rate	(Based on a unit of 1000 head of sheep)				Saving to Sheepmen for 1925-1926
			Tax	Reduced Valuation	Tax Rate	Tax	
Apache .....	\$5500	2.86	\$157.30	\$5000	2.86	\$143.00	\$14.30
Cochise .....	5500	1.33	73.15	5000	1.33	66.50	6.65
Coconino .....	5500	2.40	132.00	5000	2.40	120.00	12.00
Mohave .....	5500	2.79	153.45	5000	2.79	139.50	13.95
Navajo .....	5500	2.57	141.35	5000	2.57	128.50	12.55
Yavapai .....	5500	1.54	84.70	5000	1.54	77.00	7.70
Yuma .....	5500	2.52	138.60	5000	2.52	126.00	12.60
Pinal .....	5500	1.81	99.55	5000	1.81	90.50	9.05
(Based on a unit of 1000 head of goats)							
Yavapai .....	2500	1.54	38.50	2000	1.54	30.80	7.70
Graham .....	2500	2.52	63.00	2000	2.52	50.40	12.60
Mohave .....	2500	2.79	69.75	2000	2.79	55.80	13.95

The tax rate given does not include the school tax.

#### PRESIDENT KINCAID OF TEXAS ON FEEDERS' PROBLEMS

The causes of the difficulties met by western feeders of lambs during the past season have been variously stated by many people. A point, however, on which a large number of both producers and feeders have found common ground is that the lambs should be purchased direct from the grower by the feeder, and the speculator eliminated. This opinion is strongly supported by a statement recently made by Mr. T. A. Kincaid, president of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association, in which he declares that "the direct purchase by feeders of Texas lambs, enabling the selection of animals of the weights desired, and, at the same time, eliminating speculation, is the solution of the problem of the small percentage of overweight Texas lambs which feeders claim forces them annually to accept discounts on the markets." However, the contention that feeders last fall put in lambs that were too heavy is discounted by Mr. Kincaid. He states that feeders, waiting either for a better market or a larger yield of wool, are reported to have fed from 160 to 180 days instead of for the usual period of sixty to 120 days, which naturally produced overweight.

While denying that very many Texas feeding lambs are purchased at too great weight, Mr. Kincaid states: "The producer is willing to put a maximum as well as a minimum weight on his lambs if the feeders will pay the difference. They cannot expect us to permit them to cut out the tops unless they pay more for them. The element of risk to the producer is greater than to the speculator." The suggestion is also made by Mr. Kincaid that

wool grown by the lambs should be of value to the feeders and that if they were not receiving such profit, as contended by some, certainly the producers should not be penalized for it.

#### RAMBOUILLETS EXPORTED TO JAPAN

Representatives of the Japanese government recently visited Utah and purchased 176 head of Rambouillets for the Japanese government's sheep farm at Hok Kaida. The purchase included 170 ewes and three rams from the Seely flock of Mt. Pleasant and three rams from J. K. Madsen. Selections were made by Mr. K. Takeshue, who is superintendent of the station to which the sheep will be sent and who also made the selections for the large exportation in 1923. Mr. Takeshue was accompanied by Mr. M. Hada of New York City. It was stated by these gentlemen that no other purchases would be made for the Japanese government in the United States this year.

#### THE MARYLAND RAM SALE

The first annual ram sale held under the auspices of the Maryland Sheep Growers Association at the University of Maryland, College Park, on May 29, resulted in an average of \$41.57 per head on twenty-six head of rams. The offerings included twenty-two Hampshire rams and four Shropshires. The average on the Hampshires was \$44.15 and on the Shropshires, \$34.00. The high priced ram of the sale was a Hampshire yearling bought by Mr. G. B. Fenwick of Glyndon, Maryland, for \$67.00.

The sale was well attended and bidding was snappy throughout. Nine of the rams included in the sale were consigned by Maryland breeders and the rest were purchased outside of the state and brought in for the sale.

K. A. Clark, Animal Husbandry Specialist, University of Maryland.

The National Ram Sale offers an exceptional opportunity to see the best the country produces in breeding sheep.



## Anniversary of the Founding of the Shropshire Association

When Albert Henderson, Lafayette, Indiana, sent a call to all owners of Shropshires to be at Old Purdue Agricultural Hall on February 5, 1884, for the establishment of a permanent record for the registering of Shropshire sheep in the United States and Canada, he and his associates did not know they were erecting an organization that would develop into the largest and strongest purebred sheep association in the world. They did not know it would continue forty years and more to go, in the city of its foundation and spread its influence throughout America, Canada and foreign countries. "No, we never thought of those things," said Prof. W. C. Latta, one of the two living members who helped take the initial step in the organization. "We had just one thing in mind. It was the apparent need of all breeders, whereby owners might know the foundation of their flocks and the breed be kept pure and distinct."

A tablet to commemorate the founding of the American Shropshire Registry Association has been placed in the Purdue Agricultural Experiment Station Building in recognition of this historic event. On January 29, 1926, the Board of Directors of the American Shropshire Registry Association headed by President W. S. Guilford, Butte City, California, inspected the tablet, and with Professor Latta stood on the spot where the association had had its first meeting, nearly forty-two years previously. Here they were photographed.

As we read through the old records, we find: "At the Fat Stock Show in November, 1883, a number of leading Shropshire breeders decided, at the suggestion of Albert Henderson, to make a call to all owners of this breed to meet at the Pur-

due Agricultural Hall, February 5, 1884, and thereby established a permanent organization."

The first minutes were pen written by the hand of J. Mortimer Levering, the first secretary-treasurer of the organization. The record indicates that with him that February day, besides Professor Latta and John L. Thompson, were Albert Henderson, I. J. Farquhar and S. R. Quick (elected first president) of Indiana and

president at this meeting and retained the office until November 5th of 1891, when the Hon. John Dryden succeeded him.

On November 17, 1885, the second annual meeting of the organization took place at the Sherman House, Chicago. Mr. S. H. Todd was president at this time, Prof. W. C. Latta was a member of the executive committee. The minutes of this meeting show that the following states were represented in the membership that date: Indiana, Ohio, New York, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Kentucky, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Texas, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Georgia, Massachusetts and Dakota.

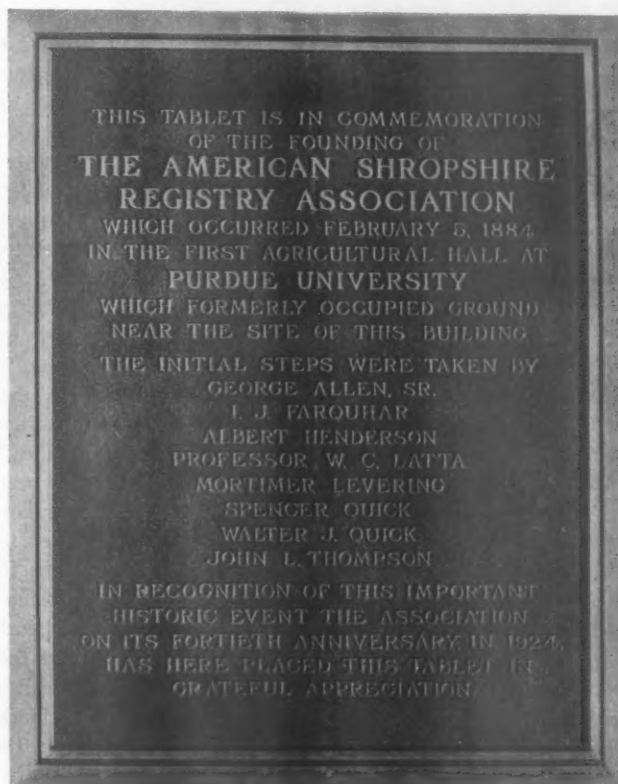
At this meeting the first appropriations for special prizes were made amounting to \$150.00 and divided between "The American Fat Stock Shows" at Chicago and Kansas City, Missouri.

Colorado and Maryland were represented when the next meeting was called on November 16, 1886. This time the convention covered two days. Indeed, not only did they have sessions during the day, but in the evening. Many speeches were made and suggestions intended for the benefit of the organization were discussed. The registration fee was changed to seventy-five cents for members, except for lambs which were to be admitted at fifty cents "prior

to October 1st."

By 1892 the association was considered quite prosperous. The financial report showed that the receipts during the year had amounted to \$13,123.75. The members felt justified in arranging to offer special prizes at the World's Fair which was to take place in Chicago during the following year.

It was in the Assembly Hall within the World's Fair Grounds on Monday morning, October 2, 1893, that the tenth annual meeting occurred. Honorable John



George Allen, Illinois, who was made first vice-president.

On the 23rd day of April of the same year the new organization came together in Indianapolis to consider the "Rules of Entry and Constitution."

The 18th day of November (1884) again found the little organization in session. This time they were at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Chicago. At this meeting a committee of five was appointed "to adopt a standard and points of excellence." Mr. S. H. Todd was elected



Board of Directors of the American Shropshire Registry Association with Professor W. C. Latta of Purdue University, one of the founders of the association, standing on the spot where the association was organized and held its first meeting in 1884. This spot is on the Purdue Campus directly in front of the present Agricultural Experiment Station Building. From left to right they are: Wm. F. Renk, Sun Prairie, Wis., W. C. Latta, Lafayette, Ind., Julia M. Wade, secretary of the association, Lafayette, Ind., W. S. Guilford, president, Butte City, California, J. C. Duncan, vice-president, Lewiston, N. Y., and R. C. Yohe, Allerton, Iowa.

Dryden, of Canada, was president and, during the meeting, was re-elected to the office. Professor Latta was elected vice-president. Mr. John L. Thompson, of Indiana, judged Shropshire classes at this fair.

Due to the earnest enthusiasm of that

little gathering of gentlemen in 1884, the association is able today to boast of over 8000 members.

The registration files show that approximately 680,000 Shropshires have been considered worth recording by their owners.

—Claude Harper

## Sheep Affairs in Australia and New Zealand

By A. C. Mills,

Melbourne, June 14, 1926

The only wool auctions of importance since last writing have been held in Brisbane, where some 70,600 bales have come under the hammer. The selection generally was of average quality, with a sprinkling of choice lots, but much of the wool gave evidence of the effects of the unfavorable season experienced in Queensland.

As compared with closing rates in Sydney the market showed a firmer tendency, with the main support coming from Japanese and German houses, the last mentioned especially being keen on all good skirtings. Prices compared with those ruling in April are quoted: Super wools and good to average descriptions, to 5 per cent

dearer; best skirtings par to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent higher; inferior sorts very irregular, sometimes  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 per cent cheaper, more particularly in wool exhibiting strong qualities. The top price realized for greasy merinos was 54 cents per pound, and quite a number of lots sold between that figure and 50 cents.

A return issued by the National Council of Woollselling Brokers shows that the average price of all greasy wool sold in Australia between July 1st and April 30th was 33.16 cents a pound and of scoured 53.98 cents. The aggregate sales during the ten months, including about 450,000 bales of carried over wool from the previous season, totaled 2,369,772 bales of an

average weight of 311.76 pounds. The average realization per bale was \$104.66.

These statistics include all grades of wool from daggy locks, pieces, bellies, to the finest fleeces.

The council's return relative to disposals of the 1925-26 clip states that 2,150,101 bales had been received into store on April 30th. Of these 1,938,269 were sold, 35,669 shipped unsold, and 176,163 remained in store waiting sale. A large proportion of the latter has already been cleared at the Brisbane and sundry small auctions, and the season will close on June 30th with almost empty warehouses.

While climatic conditions over the greater part of the south and central divisions of Australia are highly satisfactory, a good deal of central and west Queensland remains disastrously dry. The rains that I referred to as falling in those parts in my last letter petered out sooner than expected and left the country no better off. Sheepmen there are spending large sums in an endeavor to keep the best of their flocks alive, but in many cases the losses have been heavy. It is at a time like this that the motor lorry proves an invaluable ally to the stock owner on the plains, for during the last few months it has been the means of saving a tremendous number of sheep. Traveling mobs are often to be seen accompanied by two or three flat top trucks which are used for picking up and running weak stock to the railroad and carry as a back loading water and fodder. They are also being used largely in the distribution of feed in the paddocks in the drought area.

In the absence of other suitable relief country a fair number of sheep from the western plains have been sent to the coastal areas, where sugar cane farmers are turning an honest penny by giving them board and lodging. Those who have seen the sheep say it is surprising how well they are doing on the novel diet. The usual practice is to chaff the ratoon cane, tops and all, and feed from temporary troughs. A fair ration is generally considered to be about one ton of green cane per 1000 sheep per day. One grazier I know of has entered into agreements for the holding of 12,000 ewes on the coast up to six months, if necessary, and

the cost works out at barely 60 cents a head a month. On top of that, of course, he has to pay the cost of transporting the sheep 300 miles each way to and from the farm. He reckons that if they stay the full six months the whole will stand him in about \$4.80 a head.

Many of those who have not had the foresight, or the necessary capital, to shift their sheep out of the drought country are offering stock at ridiculous prices. Only the other day a sale was reported of 2000 merino ewes in fair traveling condition at 36 cents per head.

Sheep values in the other states, and outside the dry belt in Queensland for that matter, keep fairly firm. The yardings of fats have been rather above the normal in the principal markets and that is keeping prices from advancing as is usual at this time of the year. Good trade cross bred wethers were fetching from \$7.20 to \$8.40, and heavy lambs up to about \$7.68 a head, on the hoof, in the Sydney and Melbourne yards early this week.

The lambing is proceeding in a most satisfactory manner in all states except Queensland. Though the average of actual birth may not be unduly high the weather and feed conditions have been so favorable that the losses promise to be exceptionally light. This points to a heavy export of lambs in the spring, the country being pretty well stocked.

An extraordinary general meeting of the British Australian Wool Realization Association was held on June 10th, when a resolution agreeing to placing the association in voluntary liquidation was confirmed. Bawra has yet to distribute 24 cents per share on capital account \$2,962,010 and the surplus at December 31, 1925, was \$27,230,170, besides certain trust accounts. The total assets at the end of last year were \$32,628,925. Wool growers are therefore due to receive a nice fat dividend when the liquidation is completed, which, incidently, will not be for some time.

New Zealand had a wet May, including the previously dry areas along the east coast of the North Island. Feed has made good growth and the ewes are being joined

with the rams in excellent condition, thus giving promise of a good natural increase. The lambing in New Zealand is much later than in Australia. The meat packing season is rapidly drawing to a close and nearly all the freezing works will have shut down by the time this report is in the mail. The closing buying rate in the North Island for light lamb carcasses was 18 cents and down to 14½ cents for heavies. In the South Island 19 cents was being paid for light weights and down to

15¼ cents per pound for heavier grades. To 12½ cents was being paid for light wethers and 10½ cents for heavy at per pound dressed weight.

Store sheep are not offering freely and values keep reasonably firm though in no sense high. Good four and six tooth wethers, crossbreds, have lately changed hands at round \$6.00, the best two tooth ewes at \$8.00, and broken mouth ewes at \$5.40. Forward lambs are worth \$4.92 to \$5.28.

## Mr. Poole's Views on Feeder Lamb Prices

Difference of opinion concerning the probable cost of this season's crop of feeding lambs was abruptly terminated by the June splurge which effectively disposed of contention that it would be around \$9 per hundredweight, at range loading points.

When, early in April, I suggested that Colorado feeders might be disposed to sign up on a \$9.50 basis a storm of protest resulted. Some of my correspondents in that quarter insisted that \$8.50 would be an outside price so far as they were concerned, which in the light of subsequent events was little short of grotesque. Smarting under winter losses, especially in the case of heavy lambs, this mental condition was not surprising. That I aroused such by merely suggesting a price that even then was obviously low and is now impossible I regret, but last fall when as high as \$14.50 was paid without weight stipulation, suggestion that the game was hazardous on that initial basis was also resented. Just on what basis the market will ultimately be established is still debatable, but it is a "cinch bet" that \$10 will buy few lambs unless something not now on the cards develops, the prospect being for a \$10.50 @ \$11 market on the range.

The appetite of the cornbelt farmer feeder is rapacious and ill concealed. He made money on practically every purchase of thin western lambs bought last fall, is well supplied with money to repeat the operation and will ignore western opinion in the valorization process when the main crop of western lambs reaches the market.

Right now it looks as though cornbelt

and eastern feeders will file orders for as many lambs as last year; probably more and price will be secondary to executing orders. Not only did the package of western lambs that went into the hands of farmer feeders last fall make money, but the outcome with many cattle handled in the same area was unsatisfactory, even though they were acquired at prices far below current cost, which is likely to rule all through the present season. Farmer feeders handling one or two loads of lambs have a decided advantage over western operators on a larger scale as they consume home-grown feed and are able to put on cheap gains by utilizing roughage that would otherwise have no value. Manure as a by-product is valued no more by Colorado beet growers than corn growers in the Mississippi valley, in fact the average farmer feeder is satisfied when he gets a good price for his grain, subsequent crops of corn and small gain showing sufficient increase to represent a substantial profit.

This season Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana and Ohio will make the feeder lamb market, regardless of what western operators may consider equitable prices. Last year Ohio was able to draw on an accumulation of Texas yearlings which will not be available on this occasion when it will join in the competition for part of the Northwestern crop. Michigan will wait, as usual, but Wisconsin will be heard from more insistently than heretofore, feeders in the southwestern section of that state taking part of the somewhat meager California delegation this spring.



The June bulge in the fat lamb market when Idahos went to killers at \$19.20 per hundredweight, put a new complexion on the season's feeding lamb trade by stiffening the spine of every breeder in the West. At that juncture one of the major packing concerns, which for some reason or other has expanded its winter operations recently, made several contracts at \$10 @ 10.50, thereby establishing a trading basis on which cornbelt feeders appeared willing to operate. If Colorado has committed itself to these prices the fact has not been advertised, but, it will be remembered, on more than one previous occasion, dealers and big feeders in that quarter have adroitly acquired lambs in considerable numbers at prices they had declared impossible and, having thus fortified themselves, invited their neighbors to sit in at the distribution, but at a price basis dictated by themselves. This may not happen on this occasion, but such strategy is not impossible of repetition.

Anyhow there will be no \$9.50 feeding lambs on this crop, despite the splutter that suggestion provoked early in April, when the protestants expressed their displeasure at my suggestion by berating me in the Denver market paper, and suggesting that I was working for the breeder. The strategic position of the latter has been abundantly and emphatically demonstrated by what has happened during the past sixty days, a period of highly sensational lamb markets discrediting every forecaster in the game.

J. E. Poole.

### THE CALIFORNIA WOOL SHOW

Nearly 200 selected fleeces were entered in competition for the premiums offered by the California Wool Growers Association in the wool show recently held in conjunction with the annual ram sale.

In the state-wide competition for the best fleece, regardless of grading or breeding of sheep, four classes were included. The various classes and the winners in each are shown below:

#### Best California Fleece

- 1st. Ed. Gambrel, Ukiah.
- 2nd. F. M. Ledford, Geyserville.
- 3rd. Bullard Bros., Woodland.

#### Best Ram Fleece

- 1st. Ed. Gambrel, Ukiah.
- 2nd. G. W. Cox, Preston.
- 3rd. G. W. Cox, Preston.

#### Best California Ewe Fleece from Flock of 1,000 Ewes or More, Excluding

##### Stud Ewes

- 1st. F. M. Ledford, Geyserville.

#### Medium—

- 1st. Wm. Clark, Petrolia.
- 2nd. Geo. E. Williams, Likely.

#### Middle Counties

##### Fine—

- 1st. Bullard Bros., Woodland.
- 2nd. Whitney Estate, Rocklin.
- 3rd. Whitney Estate, Rocklin.



Wool on display at the Second Annual California Wool Show held in conjunction with the Ram Sale at the Branch of the College of Agriculture, Davis, June 1st and 2nd, 1926.

- 2nd. Eugene Lyons, Orick.
- 3rd. Whitney Estate, Rocklin.

#### Most Valuable California Fleece from Manufacturer's Standpoint

- 1st. Bullard Bros., Woodland.

In the other section of the show two classes for fine end medium fleeces were scheduled for each of the three sections. The winners in these classes are as follows:

#### Northern Counties

##### Fine—

- 1st. Ed. Gambrel, Ukiah.
- 2nd. Ed. Gambrel, Ukiah.
- 3rd. F. M. Ledford, Geyserville.

##### Honorable Mention:

Eugene Lyons, Orick.  
Ellenwood & Ramsay, Red Bluff.  
Bertha Shultz, Corning.

##### Honorable Mention:

J. D. McCarty, Milton.  
Blevins Bros., Williams.  
J. D. McCarty, Milton.

##### Medium—

- 1st. E. E. Brownell, Suisun.
- 2nd. Corriedale Sheep Co., Gridley.
- 3rd. Spencer Ranch Co., Cranmore.

##### Honorable Mention:

Corriedale Sheep Co., Hollister.  
Corriedale Sheep Co., Hollister.

#### Southern Counties

##### Fine—

- 1st. E. H. Benas, Hollister.
- 2nd. E. H. Benas, Hollister.

##### Medium—

- 1st. Walter Hubbard, Fresno.
- 2nd. Walter Hubbard, Fresno.

##### Coarse—

- 1st. Walter Hubbard, Fresno.
- 2nd. Walter Hubbard, Fresno.

## Weighing Fleeces at the Shearing Pens for the Purpose of Culling Ewes

By J. A. Hill

Dean and Director Wyoming Experiment Station.

As noted in the June number of the National Wool Grower, the University of Wyoming Extension Service this year began demonstrations of culling ewes on the basis of actual fleece weights. The idea is not new, for the work reported by H. A. Lindgren, of Oregon, has been discussed in the Wool Grower and is well known through the West. However, an account of the method of procedure worked out in Wyoming may be of help to others who undertake to weigh fleeces individually from fairly large bands of sheep. D. J. Robertson, livestock specialist of the University of Wyoming, worked out the system, but I helped him at the shed of D. N. Speas, near Casper, and got a chance to see how easy it is to weigh fleeces and mark the sheep for culling if a systematic procedure is followed.

According to the agreement with the wool growers who cooperate in this demonstration, all the ewes producing fleeces under a specified weight are to be removed from the flock with which we are working. In our Wyoming plan we set a standard weight for fleeces more than two inches long; but fleeces two inches or less in length must weigh one-half pound more than the standard. Therefore:

The fleeces must be weighed.

The questionable ones must be measured.

The weights and lengths must be recorded.

The ewes that are to be culled must be marked with a distinctive brand so that they can be cut out at culling time in the fall.

At the Speas pens, seven shearers worked with blades in individual catch pens. They sheared at the rate of 500 to 700 sheep a day. The fleeces, after being tied by the shearers, were tossed outside the pens, according to the common Wyoming practice where shearing is done with blades. Eight to ten sheep were placed in a pen and then sheared before being turned out and the pen refilled. At first we

decided that it would take four men to weigh and measure the fleeces and mark the sheep from the seven shearers, but we found that two men could do it.

Any one who has had experience around sheep shearing pens knows that the shearers are the key men and that nothing must be done to interfere with their work, or it is likely that they will quit the job. This



Shearing Pen of D. N. Speas where the Culling Demonstration was held.

point was kept in mind when working out the following plan. The pens were numbered, inside and out, from one to seven respectively. Spring balances were hung outside the pens where the man weighing the fleeces worked. The weigher placed a two-inch mark on his thumb so that it would not be necessary to hunt for a ruler when a fleece had to be measured. The man who marked the sheep was provided with a cake of carpenter's chalk and worked in the alley inside the shed.

All sheep were marked with the chalk because if an unmarked sheep were to be turned loose in a pen, with other unmarked sheep, it would be impossible to tell which was the last one shorn. Therefore,

we decided that the light shearing ewes should be marked with a cross on the back so that they could easily be seen by the man who put the permanent brand on them in the chute. The other ewes had a chalk mark placed on top of the head.

All that was necessary in order to avoid confusion was to make sure that all the sheep in the pen were marked before the newly sheared one should be turned loose. It must be remembered that when ewes are being sheared after lambing, there is a great deal of noise and confusion due to the bleating.

As soon as a fleece was thrown, say from Pen No. 2, the weigher weighed it and decided whether it was long enough to pass, and immediately called out, in case of a fleece so light that the ewe producing it had to be marked for culling, "Light-Two," and at the same time recorded the weight in the record column for light fleeces. The marker who worked inside the pens with the chalk, in order to let the weigher know that he heard, called back "Light-Two," and as soon as he could get to the No. 2 pen, the ewe that produced the light fleece was marked with a cross on the back. If the fleece was heavy and long enough so that the ewe producing it was to be retained in the flock, the weigher called out "Heavy-Two," and the marker after calling back placed a chalk mark on the head of the newly sheared ewe while in the No. 2 pen. Each fleece was passed to the sacker as soon as it had been weighed.

Now at times several shearers finished with sheep at almost the same instant, and at times there was a slight delay between the weighing of the fleece and the marking of the sheep. But so long as not more than one unsheared fleece was outside of any one pen at a time, and so long as the marking could be done rapidly enough so that there were not two unmarked ewes in one pen at the same time, there could be little chance for confusion.

The culling standard is set so that only from ten to twenty per cent of the ewes in a flock are culled in any year. For that reason, if the marker gets a little behind, he has only to remember the pens in which there are light sheep, for the most numerous kind are the ones with the heavy

fleeces. When the man who puts the owner's brand on the sheep in the branding chute finds a sheep marked with a cross on the back, he brands it with an "L" (for light) in addition to the owner's brand. These are the ones to be culled. All the others receive only the owner's brand and are to be retained. It was found that this work could be done without annoying or disturbing shearers in any way. It is possible that some of the more nervous shearing crews would object to the calling back and forth, but there was no difficulty with the crew shearing sheep on which this experiment was tried.

We have still to work out a systematic method suited to weighing fleeces and marking the ewes in pens where several machine shearers are at work. I have not tried out the system described here, but I am quite sure that the noise of the machinery in a large machine shed would make it impracticable to call weights and numbers back and forth.

#### EXPENSE OF HANDLING AND SELLING WOOL

To the Wool Grower:

Many growers seem to think that by selling their wool at home they save the freight and handling expenses. Any thoughtful man knows that a purchaser must buy at a margin sufficient to cover these expenses, as well as his own hotel and traveling expenses to the West, in addition to a commission. All these costs must come out of the wool whether they are visible or invisible to the grower.

The visible margin when wool is marketed through the National Wool Exchange is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cents per pound and the freight. The invisible margin when sold at home is unknown. The following item, quoted from the Daily News Record, may throw some light on the matter:

"Merchants here (Boston) declare eight to ten cents a pound above the price paid to the grower must be obtained here to give the purchaser a profit."

The average spread necessary to cover freight and all storage and handling costs is about five cents. That is to say, the average net paid the western grower by us is approximately five cents less than the Boston market price.

National Wool Exchange

Ira T. Wight, Secretary.

#### DOMESTIC AND LONDON WOOL PRICE SPREADS

With a duty of 31 cents per pound of clean content, and a cost of getting wools to Boston from London of close to 3 cents (including interest on time bills), the apparent spread in price called for between these two markets on fairly comparable grades of wool would seem to be about 34 cents per clean pound.

To the extent, however, that Boston is supplied direct from original markets—such as Sydney or Buenos Aires—this differential would tend to be curtailed somewhat, since normally consignment to and sale at London is done to secure a better price than obtainable at the markets of shipment. This of course does not always apply to Australian wools, some of which have to be sold at London owing to agreements with and obligations to financial houses. No exact amount can be given as to the amount the apparently necessary Boston excess may be curtailed by these means. Moreover, foreign wools reaching Boston nearly always have a much superior "get-up" than domestic, and in addition are more or less heavily skirted. It has been estimated that this superiority gives foreign fleeces a price advantage which averages about 8 cents per clean pound over otherwise comparable domestic fleeces. This automatically curtails the excess of Boston over London prices to not over 26 cents per clean pound. The initiated reckon that about 25 cents is the proper figure over a period of time, all factors considered, if the tariff is fully effective.

How do Boston prices, which normally reflect prices paid to growers, compare with London prices for fairly comparable grades of wool? As would be expected at this time of year, the comparison is not extremely favorable. At the height of the domestic wool buying season, with the clip moving into the hands of those who have to carry it until needed by the mills, domestic prices usually tend to be lower than later in the year. This season the Boston excess over London is depressed because of other reasons, since 1926 bids fair to be a "consignment year" to a

larger extent than either 1924 or 1925. However, during the first five months of 1926, Boston has averaged about 21 cents per clean pound higher than London as compared with 18 cents in the same period of 1925, about 15 cents in 1924, and nearly 25 cents in 1923. In other words, despite the "consignment complexion" of 1926, Boston now compares quite favorably with London.

However, Boston prices to date in 1926 have been much below those of the earlier years. The average of weekly quotations so far this year on six principal grades has been only about \$1.03 as compared with \$1.30 in the previous year, \$1.18 in 1924 and \$1.23 in 1923. There may be small comfort for many growers in the larger Boston excess over London prices to date in 1926, as compared with the two preceding years, in view of the actual fall in Boston prices. However, there is comfort in the thought that current prices are not likely to go any lower, and seem fairly certain to improve somewhat. The carry-over from the last season of approximately 750,000 bales (Australian) in Australasia, South Africa, and South America, has been absorbed, as well as the new clip wool—a truly surprising accomplishment in view of the demoralized market after early spring of 1925. This has been done without appreciable, known accumulation anywhere of stocks in second hands, and at prices which entailed little or no losses to the growers and also encouraged business. The remarkable thing is that prices have remained as favorable as has been the case in view of the last season carry-over and the very heavy losses taken by wool users in 1925. With export wool lofts virtually swept clean, the outlook is favorable for a fairly firm market during the rest of 1926, but there are no indications of a runaway market. It would be better for all concerned if prices remain at firm but reasonable levels. With piece-meal buying apparently the order of the day, price stability will encourage movement of the wool, to the advantage of which ever interest is carrying it for the mills.



# DISTRIBUTING THE LAMB SHIPMENTS

Opinions and Comments from All Sides—Views of Growers,  
Packers and Commitssion Men

The statements contributed to this month's discussion of lamb marketing come from five persons whose positions, experiences, and observations give greatest weight to what they say. The variation in the attitude of these men toward the question of securing more stable prices at the lamb markets is not greater than should be expected from men who must view the matter from different angles.

It seems to be agreed that the wide daily fluctuations that occur in prices at the fall lamb markets in most seasons are injurious and to some extent preventable. Just how far they may be prevented can only be shown by future, carefully considered undertakings. A conservative examination of several year's records of daily runs and prices at larger markets leaves no room for doubt on the point that price drops often are the direct result of excessive runs at one market on a particular day, usually on Monday.

The buyers at markets like Chicago, of course, have full information as to the numbers held at nearby feed stations, which must be offered within a few days, but the records nevertheless show that excessive Monday runs have seriously weakened the sellers and caused drops even though there was a light supply being held at the feed stations and the Tuesday receipts unusually small.

## Swift and Company

To the Wool Grower:

I read the article in the June Wool Grower on "lamb marketing, and distribution of receipts," with interest.

As I feel it is the producers' problem, and I have expressed myself on it sufficiently, I decided not to make any further comments, and let you work it out among yourselves, but in response to your request I am writing this.

What you are trying to do, I take it, is to save the markets from breaks unwarranted by general conditions at the time. If so this is legitimate. If you try to hold up prices by artificial means you will fail.

Buyers keep fairly well posted on supplies at the nearby feeding stations, and holding them back arbitrarily will not prove effective.

Your suggestion that your commission men work together as closely as possible to stabilize the markets is good, and should accomplish results along those lines. It is possible that if shippers will keep in closer touch with their state or-

ganizations, heavy shipments one week followed by light shipments the following week might be more equally distributed.

When range conditions are more or less normal I think lambs should be marketed when they are ripe, and as quickly as possible. Every day's delay after leaving the range shrinks them in flesh, and bloom. With this quality we can increase consumption and generally take care of all receipts.

Quality is just as necessary in feeders also, as the markets often become overstocked with overgrown thin lambs that the feeder trade does not want, and they are forced into consumption at necessarily low prices to be able to merchandize them, and this has a depressing effect on all products.

After many years' experience I am convinced that holding back lambs on the range for added weight is a mistake, regardless of occasional instances to the contrary.

If there is any way in which we can work with you we shall be glad to co-operate.

Upon the lamb growers and shippers rests the full responsibility of determining how the improvement is to be secured. The commission men are the employees of the shippers to whose interests they are and will be faithful. Few lamb shippers appreciate the effort made by some commission houses to secure the proper distribution of receipts, both as distributed among the various markets and over the days of the week at each market. These efforts are too often nullified by arbitrary orders from shippers as to just when or where their consignments must be sold. Also there are some salesmen who take little interest in distribution and make no effort to cooperate with other houses in arranging to equalize the runs.

It will help greatly if range sheepmen will study this question fully, and inform themselves as to what is already being done, or what is not being done, and what could be done along this line by the various commission concerns. The columns of the Wool Grower remain open for discussion of this question.

Below are printed the comments and opinions on this subject submitted to the Wool Grower from Swift and Company, Armour and Company, President Hagenbarth and from representatives of the Chicago and Omaha commission houses.

## Armour and Company

To the Wool Grower:

Your question concerning the advantages and disadvantages of price fluctuations in the lamb market from the viewpoint of the packer is interesting since we are always doing our best to eliminate them.

The packer does not desire temporary price fluctuations since they are always an impediment to his business. Each rise in price, which the packer may secure on carcasses in his possession, is offset by drops in price. It is said that he is likely to have smaller stocks when prices are high and a drop occurs than when prices are low and a rise occurs, but this is not entirely true, since the adjustments in distribution necessary to maintain higher price levels on carcasses slow up the rate at which the meat may be disposed of. As a result, we usually find that our current stocks are about the same in the case of a price drop as in the case of a price rise, with no gain.

Temporary price fluctuations depend on unsatisfactory distribution due, either

R. S. Matheson.

to getting too many live animals at a certain market throughout a certain week, or else to the shipment of too many dressed carcasses to one market. Many times such price fluctuations depend on unforeseen changes in demand due most frequently to the unforeseen competition of other foods.

Each rise in price cuts off certain trade outlets, which were currently being supplied with lamb, and each drop in price opens up new outlets. For example, when we can sell wholesale carcasses of lamb between 20 cents and 25 cents per pound, we have excellent demand from the family trade and especially in certain foreign groups of nationalities. When the price goes above 25 cents wholesale, the consumption is restricted to institutions, hotels, clubs, restaurants and the wealthier class of family trade. When it goes above 30 cents, many institutions are cut off and nearly all the lower priced hotels and restaurants curtail their purchases. In fact, the price levels at which we can move lamb into the different classes of trade are pretty well known, and, from experience, we find it absolutely useless to try to put 30-cent lamb in trade accustomed to 20 to 25-cent price levels.

F. Edson White,  
President.

#### President Hagenbarth's Views

To the Wool Grower:

As readers of the "Wool Grower" have learned through reading the past year's issues, Secretary Marshall has been devoting a considerable amount of labor and study toward ascertaining the causes of the high and low spots on the various markets during the year's run. He has published tables giving prices and numbers of cars marketed, etc., which were the result of an intensive campaign with the railroads toward securing such data.

In conjunction with Secretary Marshall, the President of your association and Mr. Hugh Sproat have made some studies and investigations. The net result of their efforts up to date convinces us, or at least has convinced the writer, that the remedy for low prices lies largely in the hands of the wool growers themselves.

There are two major factors leading to low prices; first—congestion in over-marketing on certain days or certain months;

and second—the shipment of inferior lambs to market which bring inferior prices and lower the market for the better quality of lambs. The "native" lambs, that is lambs shipped from the Middle West and some sections east and south of the Ohio River, have seriously affected the prices received for lambs by reason of their "bucky" character and sometimes overweight and dried-out condition.

Another factor sometimes enters into the equation by reason of the fact that during the months of September and October in particular, "feeder" lambs are sent into the market in large number at the same time as the "fat or killer" lambs. This doubling up of fat and killer stuff shipped to the same market, especially in Chicago, results in so-called "big runs" and a consequent lowering of prices, and this, notwithstanding the fact that at times only a small proportion of lambs shipped under such conditions may be "fat" lambs and the bulk may be "feeders" fit for going out onto farms to be fattened for slaughter at a later time.

Some of the larger shippers have adopted the plan of sorting their lambs at home and shipping the fat stuff only, holding back the feeders either to be sold at home on contract or shipped to feeder markets separate from the fat stuff. However, most growers do not produce lambs in sufficient quantities to justify this procedure and some other method should sooner or later be devised for having the arrivals of fat lambs and feeder lambs on the various markets noted and quoted in separate divisions or classes. The ideal correction of this evil would be to hold the feeder lambs out at the feed stations contiguous to the slaughtering center markets and to sell them without their coming into competition with the fat lambs on the main market. Up to date no practical method of doing this has been figured out or presented itself.

Now to speak of remedies. Beginning in the South and Southwest where spring opens up very early, gradually working northward to Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas, it has been observed that much congestion during the months of October and November especially, and the latter part of September, can be avoided by early lambing and early shipping.

The inauguration of early lambing in Idaho, which produces the largest number of fat lambs for market, has greatly relieved the situation. However, some growers who have lambled early make the serious mistake of holding their lambs over until six months of age or older and shipping them at a time when they will come in competition with the May lambs, thus creating a congestion and a lower range of market value for everybody concerned. Further than this, the early lamb held too long grows too heavy and again not only decreases consumption but must be sold at a lower price on the market and results in actual loss to the shipper rather than a gain.

Nowadays lamb is a specialty like turkey or fancy prime squab chickens, and being such, all shippers should work to the highest idea of quality in their product. No consumer will object to paying a fancy price when he can secure a fancy article. The trouble comes when he becomes disgusted after paying a fancy price for a dried-out tough piece of lamb instead of the juicy tender quality to which he is entitled. As has been so often suggested to us by Robert Matheson, our best security against lower prices is the production of lambs of prime quality. Much advance has been made along this line yet there is abundant room for improvement and education, especially in those middlewestern states producing the so-called "native" lambs and also among the western growers who have not yet learned the value of quality.

The president and secretary of the association have made considerable effort to enlist the services of the commission men in the matter of relieving congestion and securing a better distribution of lambs throughout the season on the various markets and over the days of the week at each market. Some progress has resulted but much remains to be done.

In closing this brief article, I wish to urge upon the various members of the organization and also upon the various state organizations that the time has come for a decided campaign toward increasing consumption of lamb. Very little increase in the production of lambs can take place without being reflected in lower prices for all. The United States,

strange to say, is the smallest consumer of lambs among the world's great civilized nations. Experience has demonstrated that the expenditure of a fraction of the money spent for advertising by the producers of certain farm products in California, Washington and other states, would result in doubling the consumptive demand for our lambs. This matter has often been mentioned at our annual conventions and elsewhere but very little effective work has been done owing to the lack of funds for promoting and carrying on such a campaign as will be necessary.

F. J. Hagenbarth.

### **The Omaha Commission Men**

To the Wool Grower:

We feel that generally speaking we have pretty well solved the matter of at least a fairly reasonable distribution of receipts of sheep on the Omaha market.

It is a fact, which I think you can verify by talking with different sheepmen on the market, that our sheep salesmen consult rather closely with each other in the marketing of their shipper's sheep. For instance, if one of our larger sheep handling firms had fifty cars of sheep at the outlying feed yards, before he ordered in sheep consigned to him for the next day's run, he would consult with other sheep salesmen to see what they had at these outlying yards, the probabilities being that each of them are thoroughly conversant with the sheep at these outlying feed yards consigned to the other commission firms or unconsigned. In that way, gluts have to a great extent been obviated. The report of the Omaha receipts at the Omaha market for the past two or three years have shown that we have had but very few gluts. Last year particularly and the year previous have not been good examples of glutted conditions. Last year we had a good strong, active market the season through, demand a little bit stronger than receipts usually. It was a salesmen's market and under those conditions the bad spots with which we are all conversant did not show.

Our folk, day by day, consult with each other on this subject—sometimes in the lobby of the Exchange, sometimes by phone between their several offices, sometimes at the lunch table in the dining room, the main idea being to market the

products of the western ranges in the most satisfactory manner to our shippers.

I can assure you that in the future our folk will, as in the past, work with each other to the end that the producer and shipper to the Omaha market and their commission men operating on the Omaha market will both benefit.

In this connection I cannot help making one little suggestion. One of our competing markets, Denver, has made a great point during the past year of being the distributing market for the West. I am wondering if you have closely analyzed the result of this distribution, particularly as it affects the interests of your patrons on other eastern markets. It is a fact that very few of the sheep which go through the Denver market, reach Omaha. Inasmuch, however, as our market is sometimes influenced by big runs and adverse market conditions in Chicago, by light runs and improved market conditions in Chicago, we think the result of Denver's distribution ought to be pretty carefully gone into. It is needless for me at this time to cite you individual cases where shippers split their shipments, taking half to Denver and the other half to Chicago, and are confronted when they reach Chicago with the other half of their sheep in the packer's hands.

In the distribution of these sheep and in their movement to market from outlying feed yards, naturally shippers consult with their commission men, when on the market, leaving to the commission men the distribution of their sheep when not present. This system seems to work out very satisfactorily.

A. F. Stryker,

Secretary, Omaha Live Stock Exchange.

### **The Chicago Commission Men**

To the Wool Grower:

Psychology has much to do with lamb market eccentricity. On both sides of the trade there is constant fear of getting "off wrong." Feast and famine supplies, also alternately depleted and surfeited outlet channels are fundamental evils. Whenever feed yards adjacent to the markets are full of lambs an aggravating factor is injected and this frequently happens. It is undoubtedly true that buyers sometimes pay an outside price for a few lambs to start a run, experience having taught them that hanging a purse on the wire insures

generous entries. A shipper with a string of lambs at a feeding station is naturally nervous and his commission man is often in the same condition. Both have learned in the school of experience that what goes up must come down and that the inevitable sequence of an abnormal rise is a sharp break. Grim, economic law does this. When the inevitable slump occurs loading is promptly checked, or stopped, at the feeding stations, whereupon buyers are forced into another scramble to get meat to supply immediate trade requirements. Competition between commission men for business, rather than competition in the actual process of selling is also a disturbing factor.

Let us contrast the comparative stability of cattle and swine trade; also the relative freedom from such wide fluctuations as overtake the fat lamb market at irregular yet frequent intervals in the feeding lamb arm of the trade. When cattle and hog salesmen find that to make sales they must take off more than the circumstances actually warrant they invariably put the stuff under lock and key. Frequently 25,000 hogs are carried not over night, but over several nights on the Chicago market with effective results and cattlemen have acquired the habit of putting an accumulation at midweek in covered sheds until the opening of the next week in similar emergencies. This practice is based on sound judgment, as the first impulse of the country when congestion develops at the market is to load sparingly. Similarly thin lambs that go to yard traders are put away and carried a week if necessary, invariably with good results for the holder except when the market is on an irresistible down grade. In the sheep barn it is the general custom to sell out entirely each day, except in the case of the feeder dealers referred to.

Diagnosing a case is one thing; propounding a remedy another. The problem has been aggravated by development of what amounts to three types of salesmen, one regular, two otherwise. Even if co-ordinated effort might be possible and the entire coterie of salesmen were able to tuck its legs under one table and agree on a distribution policy, carrying it out would be difficult under new conditions. Such coordination would be possible only by



cohesion among shippers and the fact is not open to successful contradiction that a spirit of individualism is latent if not active among sheep owners, especially during the marketing period.

I have known salesmen to walk the floor nights, because a customer they could not afford to lose had either refused to accept their advice to load on a rising market or had insisted on leaving the near-by feed station when a break was inevitable. Too many live stock owners run counter to the advice of commission men, then blame them for their own bad judgment. It explains much of the switching of accounts that is going on constantly in the marketing process. A stereotyped "josh" at the market is that "commissions are always steady," yet the erratic disposition of the market makes it notoriously difficult for commission men to hold customers, without which they cannot do business profitably. A run of bad luck in this respect may cost a commission house as much in loss of business as a grower on an expensive scale would be mulcted by the same slump. Obviously a practicable method of reasonable price stabilization, by which present wide fluctuations would be avoided, would be distinctly to the advantage of the commission man whose chief item of expense is securing business.

Any coordination plan for control of supply, especially with respect to Monday runs, must have the growers' support. When a grower insists on loading or otherwise the commission man usually acquiesces; when an owner is in doubt as to his policy and disposed to throw responsibility on the commission man it is natural for the latter to hedge, or protect himself should trouble be encountered.

Doubtless lamb market eccentricity is due in part to injudicious buying, some people stigmatize it as manipulation, but it is not logical to regard sharp advances as evidence of manipulation unless the motive is to start a run. Lamb is a highly perishable product and when the dressed market runs into congestion a bargain sale is essential to a clearance. Frequently lambs bought on a high market are sold

at a loss, whereupon the buying force is called on the carpet, berated for its blunder and admonished to make the loss good, which it proceeds to do by raiding prices. In the event of a few days of excessive supply they have no difficulty in swinging the price pendulum to an extreme in the opposite direction. And while they may not operate in actual collusion on such occasions it is natural and easy for one organization to have a lucid idea of what the others are doing.

Other factors may be enumerated, not the least of which is the inevitable gob of native lambs that is attracted by a sharp advance during the season when such lambs are marketed. This supply comes from so many sources that control, or even regulation is impossible. Still another factor is the eastern shipper or the city butcher who must have a load of lambs regardless of cost and in getting it makes a fictitious top, which is too often construed as the market. The sharp break of mid-June was directly the result of a run of Idaho lambs several weeks in advance of the usual schedule. It started at a period when prices were on an abnormally high level so that the break was irresistible and as usual it went to an extreme in the opposite direction.

Making a market for feeding lambs at the outside stations is a chimerical idea, although by no means new. While numbers may exert an influence on values, the proportion of fat and feeding lambs in a run can be approximated by the time the market opens and, not infrequently, demand for "two-way" lambs is such that feeders are a factor in maintaining prices. If it were possible to congregate the entire package of feeding lambs at a central station such a market might be given consideration, but this is obviously impracticable. To induce feeder buyers to round-up a scattered collection of feeder goods at outside points, a motor transportation system would be imperative and such service is costly. Anyhow, who knows the ultimate destination of "on-the-line" stock until it reaches the final market where it gets competition from killers, yard traders and country buyers? Even if an outside feeder market were practicable, trading would be necessarily done on

the basis of values determined in competition at the central market.

To my mind reasonable price stabilization could be facilitated, if not accomplished, by an agreement by which a requisite proportion of supply could be placed in control of market agencies who could be made parties to the agreement, voluntarily of course, as coercion is out of the question in either group. It would be necessary for shippers to allow their salesmen free hands after the cars reached the feeding station: selling agencies to conform to a program by which loading at the stations would be determined over night by a committee of say three men. This would enable shippers to have the services of salesmen they prefer and permit commission houses to compete in the essential matter of service.

It is futile to expect killers to specify, or even approximate their daily needs in advance. Their interests render it necessary to buy at the lowest possible cost. In this respect, at least, they are in permanent antagonism to the producing element, regardless of any sophistry their publicity experts may evolve on the subject.

To make such a plan reasonably effective, whenever a buying raid is attempted the use of lock and key should be resorted to as it is now done in cattle and hogs, frequently with success. A bargain sale requires two parties. With an effective agreement loading at feeding stations could be reduced or suspended until a clearance at the market was accomplished. What the market needs is improved psychology.

—J. E. Poole.

#### BOARD OF APPEALS OPPOSED BY CARIBOU FOREST USERS

A protest was lodged by the Caribou Wool Growers Association, whose members are mainly users of the Caribou Forest in Idaho, against the formation of a board of appeals in connection with that forest. This action was taken at the annual meeting of the organization at Soda Springs, Idaho, on June 17.

# A Few Samples of the Entries for the 1926 Ram Sale

Salt Lake City, August 30th, 31st and September 1st



A Thousand Springs Farm Sale Entry photographed in Field Condition.



Yearling Hampshire Rams entered in the Sale by L. L. Breckenridge, Twin Falls, Idaho.



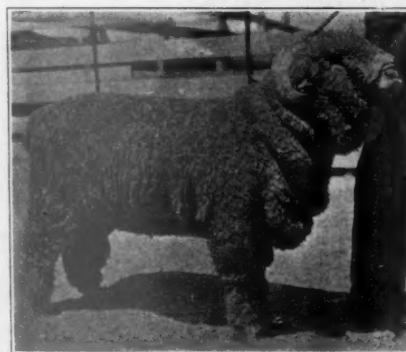
An Early-season Picture of Range Rams entered in the 1926 Sale from the flock of Gillett Sheep Company, Buhl, Idaho.



A Two-year-old Prize Winner entered by W. D. Candland & Sons, Mt. Pleasant, Utah.



Some of Dr. S. W. McClure's Stud Hampshires for the Sale.



One of the Day Farms Company's Rambouillet Stud Rams for the Sale.

# Number of Stock Grazed on National Forests During 1925

To the Wool Grower:

Please find enclosed the annual statement from the Forest Service covering the number of live stock grazed on national forests during the calendar year 1925. This shows the number grazed by forests, the total number grazed in each state for both classes, and total number of permits issued.

The downward trend in the number of live stock using the national forests continued during 1925, the reductions for the calendar year being 125,425 cattle and horses and 152,272 sheep and goats. The falling off in numbers of cattle grazed are about equal in each district.

There were slight increases in the number of sheep grazed in two districts; in District One comprising Montana and northern Idaho, and District Two comprising Colorado and part of the national forests in Wyoming.

In California the Stanislaus National Forest

was closed to all grazing on account of foot-and-mouth disease. This accounts for reductions amounting to approximately 12,800 cattle, and 18,000 sheep which would otherwise have grazed on that forest.

We had 1492 fewer individual permittees grazing cattle in 1925 than in 1924, a loss of about six per cent in individual users of forest ranges. There was, however, an increase of 134 permittees, or about 2.5 per cent who grazed sheep. There was a slight increase in the numbers of sheep grazed in the states of Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, Washington and Wyoming; while losses are shown in California, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, and Utah.

Utah lost the greatest number of individual cattle permittees, amounting to 507, grazing a total of 8319 head. On the other hand this state gained 67 sheep permittees.

Colorado lost 32 and New Mexico lost 42 sheep permittees.

These reductions are clearly due to a shortage of stock owned by the permittees, many of whom took advantage of the regulations of the Service, providing for such emergencies and secured non-use permits for the ranges during the season of 1925, intending to purchase more stock and re-occupy their ranges during the present grazing year. Through this course their grazing preferences do not lapse and the range received a welcome rest through the non use.

From present indications it is believed that 1925 represents the lowest point in this downward movement, and that the number of permittees and numbers of stock grazed during 1926 will show a substantial increase.

Will C. Barnes, Asst. Forester.

Forest	Cattle & Horses			Sheep & Goats			Forest			Cattle & Horses			Sheep & Goats			Summary by States		
District 1	1924	1925	1926	1924	1925	1926	District 4 (cont.)	1924	1925	1926	1924	1925	1926	State	No. Permits C & H S & G	No. Stock C & H S & G	1924	1925
Absaroka	6,880	5,846	59,955	60,561			Bumblot	49,674	43,199		228,283	232,372		Alabama	5	77		
Beartooth	3,485	3,369	23,516	31,379			Idaho	2,824	2,147		94,016	63,345		Alaska	1	1		
Beaverhead	25,082	25,018	11,450	68,949			Kalish	4,262	3,001		3,959	1,118		Arizona	1,337	99	279,620	242,492
Bitterroot	4,506	1,929	14,179	11,815			La Sal	16,422	16,023		84,432	82,894		Arkansas	42	1	1,844	23
Blackfoot	240	394	1,782	1,534			Lemhi	16,128	16,356		64,031	69,710		California	2,408	397	193,864	460,089
Cabinet	699	112	8,476	4,508			Martit	20,439	19,513		130,239	122,366		Colorado	3,671	694	302,320	261,771
Coeur d'Alene	186	112	2,180	2,187			Melindoka	19,405	18,650		76,145	68,077		Florida	80	3	784	801
Clearwater			18,701	22,001			Nevada	5,101	5,171		42,955	46,820		Idaho	3,481	845	160,601	1,424,591
Custer	28,287	25,000	1,995	5,509			Payette	6,128	8,216		109,658	95,165		Montana	2,376	389	182,362	270,268
Deer Lodge	18,660	12,677	20,663	19,211			Powell	2,501	2,928		48,728	44,400		Nebraska	35	...	11,407	...
Flathead	70	87	...	1,300			Salmon	16,767	17,072		66,030	65,821		Nevada	439	100	71,493	293,032
Gallatin	6,408	5,129	45,218	35,078			Swanfoot	9,087	8,489		200,057	189,126		New Hampshire	23	...	179	...
Helena	13,796	12,450	45,083	35,078			Targhee	18,738	18,379		192,378	195,458		New Mexico	1,705	367	107,764	263,876
Jefferson	10,746	17,749	114,388	115,249			Teton	13,279	12,912		11,249	...		North Carolina	184	23	1,129	131
Kanlow			768	2,112			Tolyah	16,716	16,404		22,897	21,499		Oklahoma	71	...	2,828	...
Kootenai	160	188	...	...			Union	20,368	19,129		186,879	180,450		Oregon	1,639	441	113,636	689,004
Lewis & Clark	6,914	6,014	21,657	14,932			Washita	9,783	9,938		64,549	58,829		South Dakota	423	8	17,350	9,936
Lolo	548	...	22,976	21,954			Wesler	11,194	10,580		48,199	20,691		Tennessee	83	2	217	44
Madison	19,985	16,164	102,182	95,752			Wyoming	38,454	34,770		231,680	245,456		Utah	8,742	1,837	143,564	750,777
Missoula	5,445	4,897	13,800	20,429			Totals	421,671	388,990		2,641,100	2,544,892		Washington	465	122	28,868	189,567
Paradise	6,138	8,742	23,374	22,479			District 5							West Virginia	54	24	434	1,454
Pack Creek	508	618	4,381	2,941			San Bernardino		2,085					Wyoming	907	270	112,644	612,927
Salmon	228	298	4,380	11,034			Angelo	5,044	5,094		...	498		Totals	25,298	6,598	1,728,271	6,820,975
St. Joe	31	47	5,445	4,955			California	1,869	8,793		26,125	23,321		1925				
Totals	189,400	147,945	634,408	657,068			Cleveland	6,588	1,079		10,205	...		Alabama	3	...	68	...
District 2							El Dorado	9,848	9,387		17,450	...		Alaska	1	...	...	...
Arroyo	9,532	9,767	18,400	18,926			Inyo	13,462	10,819		27,301	26,914		Arizona	1,337	102	284,148	279,...
Battle Mountain	46,488	43,371	18,419	18,959			Klamath	7,080	6,381		803	1,194		Arkansas	42	...	1,010	...
Bighorn	29,942	29,942	94,480	109,470			Lassen	11,241	11,241		27,196	24,826		California	2,408	397	193,864	460,089
Black Hills	17,022	16,127	6,420	10,442			Modoc	32,494	36,679		99,235	69,703		Colorado	3,671	694	302,320	261,771
Cochitope	17,369	18,648	46,144	42,190			Mono	5,208	5,211		92,378	92,513		Florida	80	...	784	...
Colorado	17,522	18,144	15,722	16,514			Plumas	13,088	13,088		59,235	56,650		Idaho	3,481	845	160,601	1,424,591
Gunnison	20,950	20,191	22,478	34,749			Santa Barbara	9,949	8,649		8,999	4,748		Montana	2,376	389	182,362	270,268
Hartley	10,829	9,895	5,812	5,710			Sequoia	22,487	20,909		6,690	5,900		Nebraska	35	...	11,407	...
Hwy 10	4,984	8,997	94,001	94,001			Shasta	7,117	7,117		28,801	28,801		Nevada	439	100	71,493	293,032
Hwy 10	17,034	18,497	70,388	70,078			Sierra	17,814	12,419		28,090	17,790		New Hampshire	23	...	179	...
Leadville	5,971	7,042	99,739	79,605			Stianlaus	12,925	...		17,998	...		New Mexico	1,705	367	107,764	263,876
Medicine Bow	11,088	10,817	46,917	45,141			Tahoe	5,980	...		24,854	...		North Carolina	184	23	1,129	131
Montezuma	26,470	23,361	84,510	82,978			Trinity	10,626	9,873		13,890	14,108		Oklahoma	71	...	2,828	...
Nebraska	12,487	9,454	...	...			Totals	193,866	168,455		469,653	414,199		Oregon	1,639	441	113,636	689,004
Pike	9,084	9,845	26,840	15,918			District 6							South Dakota	423	8	17,350	9,936
Rio Grande	20,143	18,286	197,890	173,762			Canada	814	322		19,142	19,772		Tennessee	83	2	217	44
Sault	16,800	13,787	78,517	106,900			Chelan	11,514	10,019		44,040	39,719		Utah	8,742	1,837	143,564	750,777
San Isabel	11,300	11,128	19,112	19,928			Columbia	16,914	16,914		17,952	16,248		West Virginia	54	24	434	1,454
San Juan	17,482	17,784	116,049	142,160			Colville	6,503	6,120		10,764	24,623		Wyoming	907	270	112,644	612,927
Shoshone	7,970	9,438	83,979	89,050			Crater	10,308	8,850		10,768	6,610		Total	23,806	5,889	1,893,046	6,178,104
Three Forks	22,458	24,940	44,451	42,868			Deschutes	4,051	3,771		31,667	20,904		* 1 permit for 25 reindeer.				
Wasatch	9,189	6,918	30,963	44,558			Freemont	11,714	10,477		...	78,548						
White River	30,874	31,123	36,904	56,859			Malheur	28,747	24,078		76,824	70,927						
Totals	406,924	392,008	1,232,146	1,291,461			Obispo	14,743	14,931		66,377	66,621						
District 3							Olympic	600	400		...	...						
Apache	21,060	30,285	24,306	22,967			Oregon Mt. Hood	1,937	2,790		23,633	24,074						
Carson	9,281	9,898	74,094	60,269			Reinier	7,458	3,387		44,447	45,744						
Coconino	42,397	35,789	73,346	61,850			Santiam	197	111		14,680	14,103						
Coronado	39,370	29,089	...	...			Siackyou	1,439	1,461		150	1,471						
Crow	34,249	31,968	2,550	1,520			Sisalman	194	...		...	...						
DeWitt	30,907	23,810	97,728	62,160			Snoqualmie	194	...		...	...						
Dillon	40,221	26,148	4,946	4,703			Umatilla	15,189	13,499		131,665	135,482						
Lincoln	19,909	18,873	11,428	14,637			Walla	18,118	13,385		...	...						
Monmouth	6,946	7,046	26,994	24,268			Wallawa	16,744	14,858		80,079	69,610						
Prescott	46,940	35,748	42,806	42,806			Washington Mt. Baker	21,718	...		...	...						
Santa Fe	8,628	6,950	46,996	45,145			Wenatchee	4,487	...		...	...						
Stargate	6,640	6,399	38,692	39,200			Whitman	21,658	17,774		171,302	120,176						
Tomb	71,099	64,607	17,098	20,098			Totals	149,206	135,097		629,661	796,214						
Tukey	14,643	17,408	20,679	27,544			District 7											
Totals	382,930	354,992	822,959	492,698			Alabama	97	69		...	...						
District 8							Arkansas	450	393		...	...						
Ashley	9,346	9,006	93,360	91,379			California	20	...		...	...						
Boise	4,804	4,300	119,287	106,983			Florida	724	742		662	606						
Cache	24,865	23,443	95,611	96,908			Montanola	494	321		1,646	1,412						
Caribou	19,360	15,101	233,284	282,884			Nevada	431	290		151	103						
Challis	7,957	9,089	68,379	80,601			Natural Bridge	926	884		...	...						
Dixie	16,192	15,288	65,920	67,429			Oxak	314	...		...	...						
Flathead	29,039	26,056	...	...			Plegha	97	487		46,384	47,478						
Totals	382,930	354,992	822,959	492,698			Shenandoah	1,271	982		...	...						
District 9							Uxak	127	110		44	44						
1919 Permits	...	...	...	...			White Mountain	179	...		...	...						
1921	...	...	...	...			Whitita	3,625	2,437		...	...						
1922	...	...	...	...			Totals	9,174	7,948		2,854	2,282						
1923	...	...	...	...			District 8											
1924	...	...	...	...			Alabama	97	69		...	...						
1925	...	...	...	...			Arkansas	450	393		...	...						
1926	...	...	...	...			California	20	...		...	...						
1927	...	...	...	...			Florida	724	742		662	606						
1928	...	...	...	...			Montanola	494	321		1,646	1,412						
1929	...	...	...	...			Nevada	431	290		151	103						



## The Idaho Wool Growers Association's Report on Lamb Shipping Facilities

The following report on train service and railroad feeding accommodations was presented by Secretary McLean at the meeting of the Central Western Shippers Advisory Board held in Salt Lake City on July 8:

As there have been no car shortages or hitches of any kind so far in the shipment of live stock or wool from Idaho, we feel that the Oregon Short Line has hold of the situation and there is no need of going into detail as to the car requirements for the next few months. We believe the estimates as mentioned in our report of April 15 at Colorado Springs are sufficiently accurate to cover the situation.

### The Wool Situation

Practically 80 per cent of the wool crop of Idaho has been shipped, less than 20 percent remains in storage in local bonded warehouses over the state. This may be held indefinitely but will probably move out with more or less of an even flow from now until November 1. Prices received to date have been about 30 percent less than they were last year. The railroads have put on as many as eleven checkers, so that the shipments rarely have been delayed and for the most part have moved out smoothly.

### The Lamb Situation

There are about 15 per cent more lambs to be shipped from Idaho this year than last, but on account of the severe dry spell over about two-thirds of the lamb shipping area, the early lambs are being rushed to market much faster than usual. For instance, during the week of June 24, there were 626 cars shipped. There were not that many cars shipped in any one week last year until the 20th of August. The early lambs are, for the most part, very good but are being shipped at a ten-pound less weight average than last year, or at from 70 to 75 pounds. This is because the owners feel that if they hold them over on the dry range until they weigh around eighty pounds, the lambs will have lost their bloom. The owners wish to get them on the market while they are in the pink of condition even though they weigh less.

Another reason for the early shipments is the high market which reached the peak price of \$19.25 a hundred pounds in Chicago in May. This, of course, very few were able to get, but a good price has held pretty well through June and as long as the market is satisfactory, growers will doubtless ship everything that they can possibly cut out so as to get them off the range and leave that much more feed for the later lambs. Rains in the last two weeks have greatly improved the range situation for the late lambs in Idaho.

There will be over two million lambs shipped from Idaho this year, and the average cost of transportation to market is around \$1.00 a head. The Oregon Short Line and the Union Pacific will receive something over two million dollars in freight alone from the lamb crop this year.

The officials of the railroads seem to realize fully the magnitude of the industry and the income that it affords them, and brings into the state of Idaho. They have perfected their service in the matter of runs and efficiency of train crews in the last three years to a point

where it is almost universally satisfactory to the shippers.

There are some physical features in the stock yards, however, chiefly in their feeding-in-transit yards where the lambs are unloaded to feed en route, which, we believe, can be greatly improved. We have already brought this to the attention of the railroads and we desire to make our suggestions more detailed and specific in this report.

After some serious complaints had been lodged by a number of shippers against the Laramie yards, the executive committee of the Wool Growers Association of Idaho appointed a committee to investigate in detail many of the yards which the shippers were using and to make a report to them. This was done and complaints and suggestions for improvement are as follows:

### Laramie

#### Complaints:

1. The hay has a very poor feeding value because it has remained out in the weather all winter and spring. It is either wet and soggy after a rain or it is dry as powder after it has dried out.

2. The hay is put out in the racks often on top of other hay which has been fed over by stock, before the shipper arrives.

3. There is no accurate account sales given the shipper of the weights of his hay.

4. The price of \$40.00, we believe, is higher than is necessary, but it certainly pays for superior service which the shippers do not feel they are getting at present.

5. The watering troughs are not standard. While the quality of water is good, in many instances there is not sufficient water to water the stock in the five-hour rest.

#### Suggestions for Improvement:

1. Old hay on hand should be disposed of and no further attempt should be made to sell it to shippers. While it was doubtless of good quality when it was bought last fall, it has been through too much weather to have any feeding value now.

2. Hay should not be put out before shipper arrives with stock unless shipper wires the yards to have it ready, and racks should be cleaned out between each feed.

3. Shippers' hay should be weighed separately and an accurate account sales given each one.

4. We believe hay could be purchased in Nebraska and Idaho and laid down in Laramie and Cheyenne at a price on which the yards could make a profit and still sell to the shippers at \$10.00 a ton less. Certainly the extreme \$40.00 price should not be charged unless the service is also extremely high-class.

5. We should like to have the watering arrangements all reworked and prefer that the troughs are one-half round concrete or iron, that they be placed at opposite sides of each corral and project out into the yard away from the fence. We wish that each yard would have the same amount of watering space per head, one foot for every ten to twelve lambs yarded. The feeding spaces should all be checked over and six inches allowed for each lamb—this is based on the five-hour rest which is the most that should be considered.

To illustrate the lack of standardization which we found at Laramie, there was one pen in which were yarded three double decks, or about 810 lambs which had but 32 feet of

watering space. This is sufficient only for about one-half that number of lambs. This 32-foot trough was at one end of the long corral. Fully 50 per cent of the lambs would never find the water at all even in a twenty-four hour rest period, and in a five-hour period only a very small per cent would get any water at all. We found another yard that held 540 head that had 32 feet of watering space, and next to it another pen of the same size which had but 16 feet. We should like to see all these pens made standard as far as watering and feed facilities are concerned.

### Other Yards

The yard at Green River has very few lambs fed there at this time of the year. A few carloads feed there in the fall. They are unprepared at Green River to handle any large number of sheep. This could be made a very good yard and get considerable business, but it needs a number of improvements, and change in management before any more shippers would stop there.

The Ogden yards are ideal for feeding-in-transit purposes as they have a good drainage, gravelly soil, ample feeding and watering space, fine water, good hay, and good shade. The chief disadvantage of the Ogden yards for Idaho purposes is that the run from Idaho to Ogden and from Ogden to Laramie takes a little more time, than from Idaho to Montpelier and from Montpelier to Laramie. Ogden is also handicapped by having no pastures.

Montpelier yards have large and ample pastures. Some of the pastures have considerable wire grass in them which is not good feed. The water is of excellent quality.

The Oakley yards have been improved and new chutes added which greatly facilitate loading. However, the shippers there are very much in need of a cutting chute. This, we believe, could be put in at slight expense. We should urge that the railroad do this this summer in time to help out the shippers when the heavy loading starts in August and September.

The Rogerson yards rank near the top in Idaho in number of carloads of sheep and cattle shipped. There were around 325 double-decks shipped from there this last year. For some time a new chute has been needed but the railroad postponed putting this in, thinking that with the completion of the Wells branch many of the shipments would be made from other points on that line. This has proved not to be the fact, and now when shippers come into Rogerson with big numbers of sheep in order to get a special train, there is very inadequate yarding and cutting space for quick loading.

The committee investigating this yard was present when a shipment was being loaded and it was their impression that three more corrals could be added very cheaply to the present equipment and another sorting chute and another loading chute and one or two gates changed in such a way as to facilitate loading so much that the improvements would pay for themselves the first year.

The shippers do not want watering troughs in the yards at Rogerson because of poor drainage. (Continued on page 40)

# THE WOOL SACK

BOSTON QUOTATIONS ON TERRITORY GRADES (MONTANA AND SIMILAR) CLEAN BASIS AND  
CORRESPONDING GREASE VALUES

Grade	Price per Clean Pound (1)	Per Cent Shrinkage								
		68	66	64	62	60	58	56	54	52 50
		Value per grease pound shown below for above rates of shrinkage.								
Fine and Fine Medium Staple.....	\$1.13½	36	38½	40¾	43	45				
Fine and Fine Med. French Comb'g	1.02½	32¾	34¾	36¾	38¾	41				
Fine and Fine Medium Clothing....	.93	29¾	31½	33	35	37				
Half Blood Staple (2).....	1.00			36	38	40	42	44		
Three Eighths Blood Staple (2)....	.87½						36¾	38½	40	42
Quarter Blood Staple (2).....	.77½						32½	34	35½	37
Low Quarter Blood Staple.....	.69						28¾	30	31¾	33
										34½

(1) Average prices on scoured wools quoted by The Commercial Bulletin, July 3.

(2) Half blood wools commonly shrink from 56 to 60 per cent. Fine wools usually shrink 60 per cent or more. Three-eighths and quarter blood grades vary from 58 to 50 per cent shrinkage.

## THE BOSTON WOOL MARKET

By Henry A. Kidder

Unmistakable signs of improvement in the wool situation, if not in the wool-manufacturing position, are the feature of the past month. June saw a really substantial movement of wool in the Boston market and a stabilization of values, at least to the extent of establishing rock bottom. The making of concessions to secure business has been eliminated and, in fact, the list of quotations is showing a noticeable upward trend. Confidence in the future is prevalent, albeit some conservative factors in the wool trade deprecate forcing the advance of prices, because of the position of wool manufacturers.

Dealers are much concerned with manufacturers over the prospects for the light-weight season in goods, openings of which should soon be in order. The conservative element in the wool trade advocates a slow upward tendency in asking prices, for fear that a precipitate rise would jeopardize the business in light weight goods, right at the start. On the other hand some wool dealers feel that the trade has good cause, after the months and months of poor business, to push the present advantage and make such profits as are possible.

During June there has been considerable comment on the advisability of get-

ting back to the practice of holding wool against the time when manufacturers would be in need of it and, therefore, obliged to pay the seller's price. The turnover in Boston for the month is estimated to have been 20,000,000 pounds or more, but the profits therefrom have been very small. Some factors, accordingly, are suggesting the retention of a good proportion of the current holdings for the time when higher prices will be obtainable, meantime the trade doling out carefully enough parcels to keep the manufacturers interested and the market going to some extent.

One thing is manifest: the distributors of wool in the secondary markets are bound to raise their prices, gradually or otherwise, because at every turn of the market toward higher levels, a corresponding move is made in the West. Thus when Boston has managed to get its prices to a point where a moderate profit is possible on wool bought in the primary markets sometime ago, they find themselves forced to replenish at an advance on current buying in the West.

Texas is typical of the course of things between the two ends of the trade. A month ago it was reported in this article that early contract prices were up to 40 cents and one small clip had brought 41 cents, but that this level was soon found too high. The market dropped first to 37 to 38 cents and then to 35 to 36 cents,

The subsequent auction sales at concentration points in Texas, during June, have seen a recurrence of some high prices. The market got up to higher than 39 cents a pound in the middle of the month, albeit the peak of 39½ cents was reached only for a single choice clip.

Ohio, with its fine fleeces, is the outstanding example of advances pressing every indication of improvement in Boston. The last week in June saw a notable illustration of this point. Boston dealers were able to establish fine unwashed delaine back at 45 cents, after some time in which 44 cents was the top. At the same time, the market for the ungraded fine clips in Ohio rose to 40 cents as the common going figure and holders were asking 41 to 42 cents.

As in the case of Texas and fleece wools, it is said at the beginning of July that a profitable turnover would not be possible on lots bought in the territory sections the last of June. The willingness of growers during May to accept prices below the levels established on early contracts and outright purchases was offset the latter part of June, when the Territory markets appeared to be advancing faster than Boston. Late purchases in Montana were made sometimes at 37 to 38 cents, although this was exceptional

and 35 to 36 cents was more common.

Interest of manufacturers, such as it is, divides itself between domestic fleeces and Australian wools at present. The home-grown fleeces are relatively stronger than other domestic wools because they are in demand for blending with the wool from the Antipodes in the production of high-grade men's-wear fabrics. The present demand is believed to be for future requirements, and the fact that manufacturers are ready to take even a moderate supply of fleeces suggests that they realize the likelihood of prices being against them later.

Waning activity in the foreign markets during the late spring is reflected in the decline of imports for June. The arrivals at the port of Boston for the month were 7,593,200 pounds, which compares with the more than 20,000,000 for May, as compiled at the Boston Grain & Flour Exchange. June showed an increase over the same month last year, however, and so helped to increase the spread between 1926 and 1925 to date.

Among the current changes of note, incidentally, is a greater demand from American manufacturers for the foreign wools brought here this year. Notwithstanding the receipts of 143,319,700 pounds from abroad during the first half of 1926, against 105,652,400 pounds for the six months in 1925, some apprehension has been expressed over the re-export movement which developed in the spring. It was figured that the wools sent overseas would be needed ultimately by American mills. Substantiation of this belief is found in the recent activities of the Boston market. A considerable movement in Cape wools is taken to indicate that domestic manufacturers are awake to the ultimate need for such supplies at home and these factors have been competing with exporters who have an outlet in France, Germany, Belgium or Italy. Montevideo wools, which also were being exported from Boston, are also evoking new interest among domestic mill buyers. This circumstance is reflected in higher prices, desirable lots in some cases being two cents higher than they were.

Brisbane closed the season in Australia with prices on a firm basis and interest

already turning to the next season. The estimates of the coming clip reach 2,242,000 bales. The scheduled sales, already tentatively arranged, will open at Adelaide on August 27 and the close will come at the end of March, except for Brisbane. New Zealand's season will open in November and will also close in March.

Something more definite in the matter of prices in Boston is available now than a month ago. Fine and fine medium staple territory wool has been sold on the basis of \$1.12 clean and dealers are again asking up to \$1.15. The top of the market quotations sagged to \$1.12 during June. The range now can be quoted at \$1.10 to \$1.15, which leaves it the same as the figures given a month ago, but now it is turning upward and based upon something substantial whereas then quotations were a nominal proposition.

Half-blood staple territory is quoted a little firmer, at 98 cents to \$1. Three-eighths-blood staple has been sold at 92 to 93 cents clean, whereas it was quoted in June at 85 to 90 cents. Quarter-blood staple has been sold at 82 cents or a fraction more, compared with quotations in June of 75 to 80 cents. French combing lost some ground early in June, being quoted as low as \$1 and only as high as \$1.05, but is stronger today, at \$1.02 to \$1.05 clean. Fine and fine medium clothing remains at 95 cents to \$1. Texas spring wools have a present range of \$1 to \$1.08.

As high as 46 cents has been secured for exceptional clips of fine delaine wanted for a particular purpose and the basis now is firm at 45 cents for the grade generally. The list of prices for domestic fleeces is about a cent higher throughout, based upon actual sales in some cases. The figures quotable today are 44 cents for half-blood combing, 43 cents for quarter-blood combing and 40 cents for fine unwashed clothing. Manufacturers do not seem ready to pay asking figures for three-eighths-blood combing, but 44 cents is said to have been refused for the grade.

During the last fortnight of June, much business was reported in noils and a stronger market was established therefor. Fine sorts have fetched 78 to 82 cents,

half-blood 70 to 75 cents, three-eighths-blood 60 to 65 cents and quarter-blood 55 to 60 cents. The latter only recently were below 50 cents for ordinary lots.

Stocks of good pulled wools were reduced greatly in most houses by the last of June, but lambs' B super was increasing in supply and activity. A firmer market also was noticeable for the latter as July was reached. Best western lots were selling at 85 cents clean and New York at 82 cents.

### CONFERENCE ON COOPERATIVE MARKETING OF WOOL

Various phases of the marketing of wool cooperatively were considered on June 26 as a part of the summer school of the American Institute of Cooperation at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul. Professors and students of economics attending the institute from scattered parts of the United States were present at the wool marketing conference, at which Dean W. C. Coffey of the College of Agriculture of the Minnesota University presided.

Messrs. R. A. Ward and C. R. Fawcett of the Pacific Cooperative Wool Growers and National Wool Exchange, respectively, gave papers setting forth what appeared to them to be fundamental principles of wool marketing as learned by them in the school of experience.

The historical background was furnished by Dean J. A. Hill of the University of Wyoming, in the form of an account of the earlier attempts at cooperative marketing in the range states, especially the organization of the National Wool Warehouse and Storage Company and the movement for the introduction of the Australian system.

L. B. Palmer, president of the Ohio Wool Growers Association, Magnus Brown, pioneer of cooperative marketing in the Middlewest, and many other prominent men in wool circles were in attendance at the conference and took part in the discussions. Opinion was expressed to the effect that it was time for the agencies fostering the collective marketing of wool to get together once in a while and make plans for the better control of the movement.



## CONDITIONS AT THE LAMB MARKETS

### CHICAGO

A wilder set of lamb markets than June developed has rarely been witnessed. A rapidly expanding supply, for which early loading in Idaho and Washington was responsible, started the market down a toboggan after it had attained the highest June levels since 1919. At the crest 84-pound Idaho lambs sold at \$19.20, feeders paying \$14.75 for their share.

On the final round \$15.50 was an outside price for the same type of fat lambs, although feeders held strong to the close. Native lambs reached \$18.75 at the high point, but were down to \$14.75 at the end of the month. The most violent convulsion occurred during the week of June 19, when fat lambs broke \$2 @ 2.25 per hundredweight in three days, dropping \$1 on a single session.

Idaho lambs came early and good, yielding a short feeder end. Country buyers found their best picking in the tail end of the run of California springers which yielded 25 to 75 per cent of thin lambs. The first consignment of Idaho lambs of the season made \$18.50, during the week of June 5, the crest being reached at \$19.20 during the week of June 12, but the slump actually set in the previous week and was uninterrupted until the final session of the month when the bulk of the fat western lambs sold at \$15 @ 15.25 and most of the natives from \$14.50 down, against \$18.75 at the high time.

Wild buying and apparently unreasonable daily and weekly fluctuations marked the entire month. Exceptions were feeding lambs and breeding ewes which maintained a stable course. Demand for feeding lambs at \$13.75 @ 14.50 was unappeasable at all times. It was a \$4.50 @ 6.50 trade in fat ewes with which the market was well supplied, many dry native ewes being dumped by farmers. Dressed trade was as erratic as the live market, declining \$6 per hundredweight in a few days when effort was made by distributors to clear an accumulation. Native lambs were comparatively few and had it not been for Idaho's early contribution high-

er prices would have ruled all through the month. A feature of the trade was a phenomenally wide spread between lambs and mature sheep, although this usually develops in June.

The first week of the month's receipts at ten principal markets were 211,500 against 175,600 a year ago. Good lambs and desirable yearlings gained 25 cents, but other grades were 25 to 50 cents lower at the close.

The week ending June 12 delivered 195,500 at ten markets compared with 156,200 a year ago. The break continued, accelerated by increasing receipts all around the market circle.

Ten markets received 214,900 during the week ending June 19, compared with 157,800 last year. During the early part of the week further sharp breaks were registered, but at that stage the decline was checked. Net losses for the week were \$2 @ 2.25 per hundredweight on the bulk of fat lambs, of which about half was taken off on the Monday session.

During the week of June 26 receipts around the market circle figured 183,000, against 155,200 last year. At the new scale of prices the break was checked, fat lambs holding reasonably steady. The previous break held native lambs back in the country, Idaho being responsible for much of the week's run.

The short week at the end of the month, a 3-day period, renewed the bear drive although only 128,800 reached ten markets against 136,400 last year. On the final day of the month most of the fat western lambs, weighing 75 to 79 pounds, sold practically straight at \$15 @ 15.25; natives from \$14.50 down, a few at \$14.75. Fat ewes were on the same \$5 @ 6.50 basis, fat Idaho wethers making \$8.50 @ 9.50 with yearlings at \$12, and a few western yearlings going to feeders at \$11.25. Desirable 60 @ 64 pound—Idaho feeding lambs cost \$14.25 @ 14.50.

—J. E. Poole.

### OMAHA

Price fluctuations in lambs were very erratic the greater part of June, with

values suffering a sharp set-back the latter half of the four-week period. Seasonably light receipts at all markets, together with strong quotations in eastern dressed trade, resulted in a strong tone as the month opened, but with supplies developing rather burdensome proportions about mid-month, and drastic breaks in the East making their appearance, the market hit the toboggan and closing levels were largely \$2.50 to \$3.00 below the final quotations of May. Practically the entire arrivals were made up of Idaho lambs, with a few Oregons included. Only on scattered occasions were any fed classes received.

Receipts totaled up the second largest for June in the history of the local market, running a little over 175,000 head, which is accounted for partly by the fact that range lambs began moving from three to four weeks earlier than usual this year.

General conditions surrounding July trade are not exactly favorable to the rancher, although there are some factors that may bring about a better undertone to the market for slaughter lambs. It is recognized that there is an increase in the production of lambs throughout the Northwest territory, but with drouth in parts of Wyoming and Idaho reported, this will cut down the available supply of lambs suitable to go to the shambles. The price trend on fat lambs will also be affected by the prices paid for feeders. Scouts who have made the entire Northwest territory state that contracting for delivery is of considerably less volume than in former years and this will bring more lambs to central live stock markets.

A canvass of the commission houses at Omaha and Chicago shows that there are considerable orders for feeding lambs on file although the prices are somewhat less than are being paid at the present time. The erratic market on fed lambs in January and February of this year has tended to make feeders rather cautious in buying supplies unless there is a margin between the fat and feeder prices, so that lambs going out are not facing a loss as was the case the previous year, when a premium over fat prices was prevalent. The

few contracts made in northern Wyoming and Idaho for lambs are quoted as \$10.00 @ 10.50 per hundred. This means around \$13.50 on this market as the cost entailed at the feed yards will bring the price up to around this figure.

While total arrivals of western lambs were rather liberal during June, the percentage running to light lambs suitable for feeders was relatively small, and under a fairly urgent demand prices in this division failed to reflect the sharp drop in killing classes. Bulk of the lambs taken by feeders carried quite a little weight but prospects are for a more or less liberal run of lighter lambs in the near future.

Shipments to the country were over three times as large as in May, aggregating some 29,200 head, and also showed a substantial increase over the same month in 1925 when just a little over 10,000 head were moved out.

The aged sheep market followed to a large extent the sharp drop in killer lambs. Supplies, while not exactly burdensome, included a good many ewes from the ranges and packers wasted no time in hammering prices to considerably lower levels, losses of fully 75 cents to \$1.00 being apparent from the close of May with some heavy and common kinds off even more.

Clyde McCreary

### KANSAS CITY

June followed its usual reputation of being an erratic month, and price fluctuations were severe. The May market closed at the high point and the first few days in June brought a moderate decline followed by a week of rising prices that took quotations \$1 above the May close. On June 9, there was a weak tone in the trade and from then on the market sagged without much interruption and closed \$3. to \$3.50 under the high point and slightly above the extreme low point of May. Quality of the offerings changed materially during the month and the limited supplies of western lambs as well as all native lambs were not so fat as had been expected. At the extreme high point choice western lambs were quoted at \$18.25 and natives sold up to

\$17.75. On the close the top on western lambs was \$14.75 and natives \$14.50. Offerings were uneven in size and required heavy sorting and the percent of culls on natives, largely as the result of failure to dock and castrate, was above any preceding June.

Arizona lambs have been cleaned up. Colorado alfalfa lambs and Idaho lambs maintained a material margin over the best native lambs. The few Texas lambs received were mostly feeders on direct billing to feed lots.

Average prices for the month were much better than had been expected and will probably be above the July to November average. If reports can be relied on a much smaller percent of the western lambs will be fat than anticipated.

This condition would cut down the available supply for killers and increase the number offered as feeders. In the long run it would tend to maintain good prices for fat lambs.

Late July will find most of the native lambs marketed and conditions being shaped for the movement of range lambs in August. Late August will probably see a fairly good movement from Colorado and Utah, and in some of the more northern ranges dry weather may be a shipping factor before then. Killers are talking lower prices on fall lambs, but this does not mean much as packers can shift their ideas over night, and shoot prices up rapidly. However there is a general feeling that there are more lambs, by a considerable percent, to be sold late this summer and fall, than in the corresponding period last year and this has been responsible for the general belief that fall prices will be low.

Some Southwest Texas lambs, and some Idaho lambs have moved as feeders, but general opinion as to what prices will prevail for feeding lambs this fall has not developed. Feeders say \$10. or less or they will not feed this winter. The experience of former years shows that feeders as a rule pay more than they talk. For the general good of the sheep industry lower priced feeders this fall than last fall are advisable. The winter feeder needs to make a reasonably good profit next season to stay in the business.

Most of the fat sheep in June were Texas wethers that sold at an extreme price range of \$7.50 to \$9.50 with closing quotations holding a midway ground at \$8. to \$8.85. A few yearlings brought \$9.50 to \$11.25. Ewe offerings were mostly old culls and ordinary kinds beyond the age of breeders. The fat end sold at \$4. to \$6.25, and the canner end \$2. to \$3.50. Practically no good breeding ewes arrived, and there is a fairly good demand for them. Reports indicate that there is an active trade in good young ewes in the Southwest. Texas wethers will be offered in moderate supply for the next few months.

Total receipts this month were 152,196, compared with 107,857 a year ago. In the first six months arrivals were 799,208 compared with 682,925 in the same period last year.

C. M. Pipkin

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1000 ewes, with 30 extra good bucks \$10 each.

Included in above would be a ten-year National Forest permit, sheep wagon, tents, horses, lambing equipment; in fact, everything used for proper handling of sheep. Lambs from the band of ewes, last year, over 100 per cent drop, averaged 86 pounds. Owner wishes to return to banking business. Possession can be had about September 15.

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**200 DELAINE MERINO RAMS**

I have been breeding Delaines for 25 years and by careful selection, have produced a big smooth, blocky sheep with a long dense fleece of fine fiber and crimp, with oil enough to make it soft and silky. Edwin Wells of Twin Falls, Idaho, says: "Bought a band of Delaines last year, ranged them in heavy timber and brush in a hard country. Herded the best possible, loss was light, they came out fat and I'm a strong DELAINE man from now on."

Cross my DELAINE rams on your range ewes, INCREASE your wool production and convince yourself as Wells did that the Delaine Merino is the Hardest and Best Ranger in the world. Photos free—or come and see the Best Bunch of Rams in Ohio.

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Sheep receipts for the month of June were 85,033, an increase of 32,037 over the same month a year ago. Of this number 11,742 were from California, 37,927 from other range states and the balance were natives. During the early part of the month the lamb market ruled firm to higher, when Idahos reached \$18.00 on the ninth and natives \$17.65, but after this there was a sharp break with prices firming up a little on the close. Compared with a month ago values are \$2.50 @ \$3.00 lower. Best natives sold at \$14.50 on the close and westerns \$14.85. Feeders \$13.00 @ 13.50 on the close. Aged sheep were not plentiful and prices did not show the loss that lambs did. Ewes were selling at \$6.50 on the close, wethers \$8.50 @ 9.00 and yearlings mostly \$11.00.

H. H. Madden

**DENVER**

Sheep supply at Denver in June was 13,727 head heavier this year than last due to more liberal marketing here by shippers from Idaho and other western points. The run for June totaled 78,928 head, compared to 65,201 in June, 1925.

The demand for all classes of lambs was good at the Denver market but the reasonable decline in prices resulted in a loss of approximately \$3 per hundred-weight during the month. Choice fat spring lambs were selling up to \$17.25 early in June whereas \$14 was taking the same grades a month later. Good fat ewes sold at the close of the month at \$5.50 to \$6 compared to a top of \$7 thirty days earlier.

Practically no contracting of feeder lambs has been done as yet and feeders of the Denver district appear to be as determined as ever to withhold their purchasing until the price comes down. Those who have canvassed the situation carefully are of the opinion that with a good feed crop everywhere, the demand for feeding lambs is going to be good this fall, and that prices are not going to be cheap.

W. N. Fulton.



### NEVADA LAMBS IN STRONG DEMAND

According to reports, buyers are hot after the Sierra-Nevada mountain lambs. Sam Wheeler of Truckee, Nevada, was offered 12 cents on June 25 for mid-August delivery on a 90 per cent fat contract, and a contract at 12¾ cents off cars at San Francisco is also reported. So it begins to look now like \$9 lambs from the section mentioned. With the shortage of top lambs in California it appears certain that anything like early range lambs will command a premium.

Few odds-and-ends clips are still being bought, the latest one noted being from Winnemucca at 30 to 31 cents.

V. Metcalf.

### COMPARISON OF PRICES ON PURE BRED SHEEP

The table below is made up of figures compiled by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture on prices paid for pure bred sheep during the past four years at auctions and private sales. The information was obtained by sending questionnaires to breeders listed as owners of pure bred sheep in the different record associations.

Breed and Year	Ram-lambs under 1 year of age		Rams 1 year and under 2 years of age	
	No.	Average Price	No.	Average Price
<b>Cotswold</b>				
1922	17	\$20	18	\$28
1923	112	15	66	42
1924	69	14	53	25
1925	95	19	62	34
<b>Hampshire</b>				
1922	2203	24	2135	34
1923	2056	27	2154	45
1924	2019	26	1754	34
1925	1671	31	1446	47
<b>Rambouillet</b>				
1922	339	37	3570	32
1923	1293	12	7150	30
1924	1161	20	4417	30
1925	2704	32	4144	34
<b>Shropshire</b>				
1922	120	21	278	28
1923	264	21	637	27
1924	128	23	240	32
1925	207	26	426	34

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older ewes.

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72 Woodland Ave., Detroit, Mich.

### IDAHO REPORT ON SHIPPING FACILITIES

(Continued from 33.)

age. Troughs in these yards would be almost impossible to clean and the over-flow would make the yards disagreeable in handling sheep.

On complaint of a number of the large shippers who load at Murphy, which is one of the three largest shipping points in southern Idaho, we investigated and found the following conditions. They have in one corral about one-half enough water to take care of the sheep in that corral and the balance of the corrals are absolutely dry. Murphy is at the end of a very long, dry, hard trail. A large percentage of the sheep loaded there leave without having been watered after the drive to Murphy, and none of them are adequately watered when they are shipped. The sorting chute and corral arrangement is almost impossible.

We believe the correcting of the corral arrangement and the cutting chute would be a simple matter and all that is necessary to supply adequate water is for the railroad to install troughs and pipes sufficiently large to conduct the water from their tank to the troughs. The railroad already has the well and the automatic pump installed.

The track is high at the end of the line at Hill City and has a good slope below the station, but it is so flat right at the chute for a hundred yards that shippers have to hire a man with team at 50 cents a car to move each car down the track for loading. If the ballast could be raised and moderate slope made in the track for a very short distance, a bar could be used by the shipper as at most other yards, and the inconvenience and expense of getting the team there could be done away with at Hill City.

We are constantly working through our "Bulletin" to bring about a better understanding on the part of the shippers, of the railroad's trials and what their officials are up against. We are constantly combatting misunderstandings which some of our shippers and commission men seem to have of the attitude of the railroad. On the other hand, we are trying carefully to investigate and by means of conservatively reasonable suggestions, first, to get the shippers united on what they want, and then to inform the railroads of what the shippers would like. In this way they can smooth out many of the difficulties of the livestock grower. We believe we are gradually bringing about a better feeling and understanding on the part of all parties concerned.

### Car Orders

Through the co-operation and kindness of W. J. Smith and T. S. Kinnersley, we are again this year receiving the advance notice of car orders.

In the past two years the orders have been more or less incomplete but gradually we are getting it down to a system which irons out discrepancies and makes the information more and more an index on which shippers can depend.

The data showing the orders for two weeks before shipment, for one week before shipment, and the cars actually shipped during the lamb shipping period of 1925 starting June 24 and closing October 28 show an accuracy in the forecast up to the date of September 23, which was the time the heaviest shipping started when the cars shipped increased from 2500 to 3400 in two weeks. You will notice in the week of September 23 that there were five hundred more cars shipped than were reported ordered; but in the following five weeks from September 29 to October 28, there were over six hundred

cars more ordered than shipped. It is such inaccuracies as this that we believe might be reduced, if the eastern railroads would co-operate to the same extent the western roads have.

A certain commission house in Chicago sent broadcast in their weekly periodical a few weeks ago the statement that the railroads, being interested only in increasing their freight shipments, gave out inaccurate information, and told inquiring shippers that fewer cars were ordered than actually had been, so that shipments would move, anyway, whether there was a good market or not. Only in the week of September 23, did such a discrepancy occur and it can hardly be interpreted as having happened because of malice or indifference on the part of the railroads.

We believe that if Mr. Smith and Mr. Kinnersley will study carefully with us the situation as revealed by the record that we can give the shippers an index of how shipments will run that will be even more accurate than this index was in 1925, in which year it performed a very useful service as many will testify.

T. C. BACON, Chairman,  
DONALD McLEAN, Secretary.

### AN EXPENSIVE RAM

A city friend of mine living in the state of Washington, who will qualify very aptly as an agriculturist, for he earns his money in the city and spends it in the country, has a very nice place of about a hundred and eighty acres. He had been raising dairy cattle for some little time, but recently his farm man became tired of milking and it was either for him to quit or for Mr. Jones to make a change in his plan of farm operation; so Mr. Jones decided to go into sheep and secured at once, early last spring, about a hundred head of nice ewes.

I heard from time to time from this bunch as to how they were thriving during the summer months, but had not heard anything since breeding time; so just a short time ago, this spring, I asked my friend what were the possibilities of his showing a few of his lambs at the Pacific International this fall. He looked at me for a moment rather quizzically without saying anything. Then, finally, he said: "Well, you are a friend of mine, Plummer, and I think I should tell you a little secret. You remember my ewes, that I secured last fall?" I admitted that I did. "Well," he went on, "I decided I would get myself a good ram to use on them and I got one for which I paid \$510."

I expressed a bit of surprise and called his attention to the fact that this was an awful price to pay for a ram to

### REAL BARGAIN:

Ten thousand acres, choicest Mendocino County range, together with one hundred acres alfalfa land, under five years' lease. For particulars, write,

CENTRAL MENDOCINO COUNTY POWER COMPANY, Willits, California.

### BIG BARGAIN

I have 10,000 Acres sheep grazing land on the Minadoka Forest Reserve in Northwestern Utah. Will sell very cheap or will exchange for city property. Write me at once.

H. A. Lafount  
507 McCornick Bldg.,  
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Owner

### WANTED: SHEPHERD DOG

I would like to get into communication with some one who has a fine breed of shepherd dogs for sale.

J. H. EVERS, Shonkin, Montana

### HOTEL UTAH

SALT LAKE CITY

ROOMS WITHOUT BATH  
\$1.50 and \$2.00 PER DAY  
WITH BATH \$2.50 and UP.

"The very best of everything at sensible prices"



SALT LAKE CITY



100 CAPSULES \$6.00  
Price includes full set of instructions—complete instructions. Prepaid to you.  
Capsules only  
25-\$1.75 500-\$21.00  
100-\$5.00 1000-\$40.00

**GUARANTEED**  
to KILL and Remove Stomach Worms in 24 hrs.

Devil Worm Capsules are the quickest, easiest, surest and cheapest method. Used and recommended everywhere. Money back if dissatisfied for any reason. Send Trial Order NOW.  
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### COLORADO SHEEP RANGES

Tracts of 50,000 to 100,000 acres, both mountain and valley lands for summer and winter grazing.

Prices low for quick sales.



### DOUGLAS STEWART

532 Equitable Building  
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### FOR SALE

Sheep outfit complete, with 5500 breeding ewes and ewe lambs from same. For price and particulars

Apply to

**HANDLEY BROS.**

Eureka, Nevada

### Kreso Dip No. 1

(STANDARDIZED)

An Exceptionally Good Sheep Dip

1 Part Kreso Dip No. 1 to 72 Parts Water will kill

Sheep Ticks and Sheep Scab

It does not burn or irritate.  
Does not injure the fleece or skin.  
It heals shear cuts and wounds.

Economical - Easy to Use - Uniform

Use Kreso Dip No. 1 Freely

to keep all farm animals healthy, to kill parasites and for the rapid healing of cuts, wounds, scratches and common skin troubles.

SEND FOR FREE BOOKLETS:

No. 161. Care of Sheep.  
No. 160. Hog Diseases.  
No. 163. Care of Poultry.  
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For Sale at all Drug Stores

ANIMAL INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT OF

**Parke, Davis & Co.**

DETROIT, MICH.



## Choroleum Dip and Disinfectant



In use for 26 years  
Best and cheapest  
55 gal drums....\$52.25  
10 gal. cases.....10.50  
F.O.B. Denver, Colo.

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## The Antiseptic Products Company

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## A BETTER CAMP FOR YOUR MONEY

DeLux  
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Camps



Covers,  
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Famous for 40 years  
**OTTO O. OBLAD**

525 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Can ship to any point on railroad

The Eleventh Annual National Ram Sale will be held at Salt Lake City, Utah, August 30, 31, September 1, 1926. You will be able to make your selections from the year's top rams.



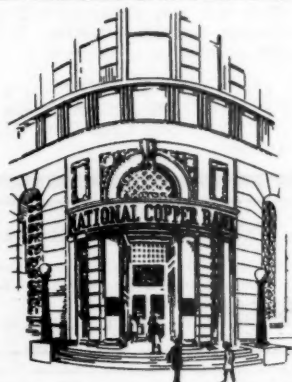
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Salt Lake City, Utah

put on a bunch of ewes such as he had secured. I remarked that I only knew of two rams having been sold at private treaty during last year for as much as \$500, both of which were sold by Mrs. Minnie W. Miller of Thousand Springs Farm in Idaho out of her Hampshire flock; and a little bit later on this spring that Frank Brown had sold at public auction a ram at \$625. I asked my friend rather curiously how it was that he had paid the extra \$10 for the ram, how he happened to go more than \$500?

"Well," he said, smiling at me, "I didn't pay the \$10 last, I paid the \$10 first. I want to confess that I went to the stock yards in one of your big cities and bought for \$10 a ram about four years of age that had been shipped in for mutton. In a general way I knew that a bull was supposed to be half the herd, but I never realized that a ram was so much of the flock, until my lambs began to drop this spring."

And then he went on to tell me that he had the choicest collection of spindle-legged, knock-kneed, crooked-faced, lop-sided lambs that he had ever seen in his life.

"I can very nicely figure," he said, "that on my hundred lambs I have lost \$5 a piece, which stands me \$510 for the buck, making him as you say one of the most expensive bucks in America."

And then he went on to say, "You can direct me to any of your good breeder friends this coming fall and I'll buy a ram of them without any dickering and pay them any reasonable price they may ask, realizing that it is cheaper to pay a good price in the beginning than it is in the end."

While this story might not apply to many sheep people, I imagine that the experience of this very good constructive business man and good agriculturist at that, is fairly typical of many similar cases. I think the moral is very obvious.

This same man would have been aghast if anybody had suggested that he pay \$510 for a ram last fall, but it is easily seen here that he paid the price and probably more on top of it.

Portland, Ore.

—O. M. Plummer

SHIP OR OFFER YOUR

## SHEEP TO PELTS

104 N. MAIN ST. **Hellman Bros.** ST. LOUIS, MO.

## ORDERLY MARKETING at COST

Strictly Cooperative—All operations conducted at cost for its 3,200 Wool Grower Members—The Members' interest is the only interest—no dividends for stockholders of warehouses—no profits from storing or grading—every economy and every benefit accrues only to members in proportion to amount of wool shipped.

BOTH OUR U. S. LICENSED WAREHOUSES IN SAN FRANCISCO AND PORTLAND ARE LOCATED AT PORTS EN ROUTE TO MARKET—UTAH AND IDAHO GROWERS CAN SHIP EAST VIA OUR WAREHOUSES CHEAPER THAN DIRECT ALL RAIL. NO GUESSING AT SHRINKAGE, WE HAVE ADEQUATE SCOURING AND CARBONIZING FACILITIES—ALL GRADING, SORTING, SCOURING, SELLING DONE BY AN EXPERIENCED PERSONNEL. FOR FIVE YEARS THE LARGEST COOPERATIVE WOOL MARKETING ASSOCIATION IN THE UNITED STATES SELLING WOOL TO MILLS ON MERIT.

## PACIFIC COOPERATIVE WOOL GROWERS

BOSTON  
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SAN FRANCISCO

### LATE LAMBING MORE PROFITABLE IN NORTHEASTERN STATES

Results from experiments in the relative economy of early and late lamb production show that late lambing is the more profitable under conditions of pasture and climate that prevail in New York state. The experiments were conducted by live stock specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture on the department farm at Middlebury, Vt., and covered a period of five years. In all of the years the results were in favor of late lambing.

The early lambs were dropped in February and marketed in July. The late lambs were dropped in May and June and marketed in November.

During the five-year period, the results of the studies showed an average net profit of \$5.47 per ewe for late lambing and only \$2.41 per ewe for early lambing. The difference of \$3.06 is unusually striking for experiments of this class, and the results are considered conclusive. During the last year of the experiment, which ended in November, 1924, the difference was even greater, the average net profit being \$6 from the late lambing ewes and \$1.95 from those lambing early.

### WINNERS IN THE NATIONAL MEAT STORY CONTEST

The National Live Stock and Meat Board has announced the winners of its Third National Meat Story Contest among high school students of the United States. Over ten thousand stories were submitted, which is slightly under the number received last year, partially explained by the fact that the contest was not pushed so vigorously as in the two previous years. Announcements of the contest were sent to the instructors and the stories were contributed voluntarily by the students. A university scholarship was offered for the best story received from each of the four districts into which the United States was divided. Miss Ardis Wilden, El Paso, Texas, was adjudged the national champion. She also ranked first in the western district. Other districts winners were: Miss Agnes I. Spurgin, Tulsa, Oklahoma, central district; Miss Margaret Gindhart, Hartford, N. J., eastern; and Miss Otelia Crawford, Hayesville, N. C., southern. In addition to the scholarship awards, nine cash prizes were also given in each of the districts. In the

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Rail and Water Connections

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Rates quoted on application.

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WOOL WAREHOUSE CO.

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OWNED, OPERATED AND MANAGED BY WOOLGROWERS EXCLUSIVELY

If you want to know the grade, shrink, condition and value of your clip and then receive that market value in dollars and cents, place it in a U. S. Government Licensed and Bonded Warehouse where you know in advance the exact cost of handling and where you receive check for entire amount, less charges, either in original bags or graded, within three days after loading on the cars.

NO UNCERTAINTY

Office, Red Bluff, Calif.

NO DEFERRED CHARGES

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## Frank Sullivan

for 12 years General Sales Manager of the National Wool Warehouse & Storage Co., and for 25 years a well known figure in the wool business, will visit the Western fields as our representative. He will also operate as a buyer and seller of wool from our Boston office.

It is indeed a pleasure to announce that he

is now associated with

## B. Harris Wool Co.

250 Summer St., Boston, Mass.

Main Office: St. Louis, Mo.

## SALT LAKE UNION STOCK YARDS

North Salt Lake, Utah

Capacity 30,000 sheep, 10,000 under cover in large roomy, well ventilated and lighted pens, artesian water. The best of service at reasonable rates. Western shipments consigned to Eastern Markets have choice two routes from here for Denver, Omaha, Kansas City, St. Joseph or Chicago. Union Pacific or Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroads.

Home of NATIONAL RAM SALE

## STOCKDALE FEED YARDS

65 Miles from Chicago

On Main Line

### ROCK ISLAND LINES

At Council Bluffs or Kansas City

Molasses Feed is used for filling milk lambs. The feed is mixed fresh daily in our own plant. Comfortable covered pens for 135 doubles, watered from spring that flows always while lambs are in pens. Good pasture for any number of cars.

BILL YOUR SHIPMENT:

**FEED AT STOCKDALE, ILLINOIS**

## MORRIS SHEEP FEEDING YARDS

On the Santa Fe Railroad at Morris, Kansas

**Save Shrinkage From Feeding Point to Market as**

these yards are located within ten miles of the Kansas City Stock Yards. Have the Railroad Agent put "FEED AT MORRIS" on your billing, otherwise efforts may be made to induce you to stop at other yards.

Special rates on long feeding. Write for particulars.

Give the MORRIS YARDS a trial and you will be satisfied with the results.

Owned and operated by

**SETH N. PATTERSON**

Room 920 Live Stock Exchange Building, Kansas City, Missouri

## A Pound of Locomotive

**A** locomotive weighs many tons but its cost is estimated on a pound basis just as a sack of sugar or a side of bacon.

In 1925 Southern Pacific paid an average of 17.3 cents a pound for more than 11 million pounds of locomotives. This is an increase of 140 per cent over 1915 when locomotives cost 7.09 cents a pound.

Railroad costs of all kinds have increased tremendously in recent years as locomotive prices indicate. The average hourly wage of railroad employes has increased 121 per cent since 1915, and labor costs are the largest single item in railroad expenses.

As a matter of comparison, the wholesale prices of food and clothing have increased 50 per cent and 92 per cent respectively, since 1915, according to U. S. Department of Labor statistics.

Wholesale prices of farm products have increased 52 per cent since 1915, or somewhat less than the prices the farmer pays for many of the things he uses. In this the farmer is in much the same position as the railroad.

While Southern Pacific's costs have increased in large proportion, the average revenue of the Company for hauling a ton of freight one mile has increased but 25.7 per cent since 1915.

The very slight profits the railroads have been able to earn—much less than the return contemplated under the law—have been made only through the greatest efficiency in railroad management and operation.

## Southern Pacific Company

Send to the National Wool Growers Assn., 303 McCornick Bldg., Salt Lake City, Utah, for catalog of the Eleventh National Ram Sale, to be held at Salt Lake City, August 30, 31, September 1.

western district the following received prizes: Emma Sall, Yakima, Wash.; Ethelwyn Barton and Margery C. Trueworthy, Butte, Mont.; Helen Johnson and Lilly Y. Yuge of Turlock, Calif.; Audrey Kniffin, Fierro, N.M.; Claire G. Bennett, Troy, Idaho; Edna Wood, Lewiston, Idaho; and Ethel Ison, Platner, Colo.

## PRODUCER LAMB POOL FOR THIS YEAR ON NATIONAL BASIS

Sixty-eight thousand feeder lambs were purchased direct from the range in 1925 through the National Live Stock Producers Association, the branch organizations at Chicago, St. Louis and Kansas City handling the animals. This lamb pool proved so satisfactory to the live stock producers that a feeder lamb pool on a national basis has been organized by the member agencies. It is reported that savings effected last year amounted to from one dollar to two dollars per hundredweight, and it is hoped this year to lessen materially the cost of lambs in the corn belt.

It is proposed that the National Live Stock Producers have general supervision of the pool, although orders will be received by the terminal agencies which will forward them to the overhead organization. The lambs will be mostly from the Montana and Wyoming ranges, averaging between 55 and 65 pounds. They will be only from flocks which have been inspected, and all unmerchantable lambs will be rejected before loading on cars.

The approximate price of lambs per hundredweight, f.o.b. loading point will be quoted to the purchaser in advance. The price will be determined by pooling the cost at intervals, contingent with volume received and changes in price conditions. The lambs will be billed at cost, f.o.b. cars at loading point, plus \$15 commission per car and 5 cents per head for insurance, to cover all losses from deads, cripples, and shortage in transit.

An order must be for at least one double deck car, approximately 275 head, and an advance payment of \$1 per head is required, which is credited to the purchase price. This order can be sent to any one of the fourteen Producer agencies located on the various terminal markets.